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# CYNEWULF'S CHRIST



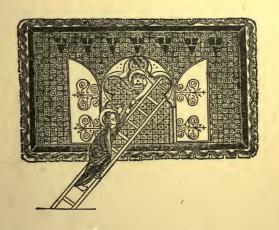
# CYNEWULF'S CHRIST

## An Eighth Century English Epic

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#### DEDICATION

#### PREFACE

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PREFACE

'Ræd sceal mon secgan, Rune writan, Leod gesingan, Lofes gearnian, Dom areccan, Dæges onettan.' 'It is but the cloudes gathered about our owne judgement that makes us thinke all other ages wrapt up in mistes, and the great distance betwixt us that causes us to imagine men so farre off to be so little in respect of ourselves.'

#### § 1.

N the year 1071 died Leofric, first Bishop of Exeter, sometime Chancellor of England, the friend and favourite of Edward the Confessor, a distinguished disciple of the Lotharingian schools. Contemporary accounts have come

down to us describing the pomp which attended the bishop's installation; how, in the presence of the chieftains of the realm, supported by the king on his right and by the noble Eadgitha on his left, he ascended his episcopal throne in the ancient minster of St. Mary and St. Peter the Apostle. The minster, when it came into his possession, had been despoiled of its lands and of nigh all its ecclesiastical appurtenances; 'of twenty-six estates which the pious king Athelstane had conferred upon it scarce one remained.' During the twenty years

of his rule, Leofric's energies and wealth were devoted to the restoration of its former fortunes, and when he died he left it more richly endowed than it had ever been before. But he bequeathed to his cathedral-church something besides a magnificent rent-roll,—something even more precious. When he took office, the library at Exeter was in a pitiable condition; he found there nothing but five worthless service-books; at his death it numbered no less than sixty volumes,-Bibles, servicebooks, homiletic literature, theological commentaries, and the chief classics of those days, to wit, the works of Statius, Prudentius, Prosper, and Boethius. Leofric's library at Exeter did not, it is true, number as many volumes as some of the rich Anglo-Saxon libraries of which we have record; it certainly did not rival Archdeacon Egbert's famous collection at York, that called forth Alcuin's enthusiastic praise:-

> 'Illic invenies veterum vestigia patrum, Quidquid habet pro se Latio Romanus in orbe, Græcia vel quidquid transmisit clara Latinis; Hebraicus vel quod populus bibit imbre superno;'

nevertheless, one item in the catalogue of Leofric's books places him in the first rank of our early bibliophiles, and has earned for him, or should earn for him, the undying gratitude of his countrymen. In the catalogue, which is extant, writ in choicest Anglo-Saxon, there is an entry which runs as follows:—

<sup>&#</sup>x27;1. mycel Englist bot be gehwilcum pingum on leodewisan gewordt';

i.e. 'A great English book on all sorts of subjects wrought in verse.' Happily, we have not to bewail the loss of the volume thus described. Exeter Cathedral still cherishes the possession of this most glorious relic of pre-Conquest literature. The 'Exeter Book,' the name by which it should be known to Englishmen all over the world, may well claim to be the noblest product of early Teutonic genius. True, it cannot boast of great beauty of workmanship,—it is not, like the 'Codex Argenteus,' written on purple vellum in letters of silver and gold; no wondrous miniatures adorn its pages, like the 'Book of Kells,' - 'Angles,' not 'Angels,' wrought it,-but its contents claim for it a higher consideration than even the supreme philological interest of the former and the artistic glories of the latter. It has preserved for us a whole library of national literature, that would otherwise have been irrevocably lost; it is in itself a 'bibliotheca' rather than a 'book.'

#### § 2.

It is not my purpose on this occasion to dwell on the contents of the volume; a study of the 'Exeter Book' would practically amount to a survey of old English poetry through all its varied vicissitudes, harking back to the songs that glee-men sang before the legions of imperial Rome surrendered Britain to its fatal conflict with barbaric Teuton. Fierce and brutal as were these pirate-hordes towards their foes, yet their harps were

attuned to tender strains as they sang their sailor-songs of the dear ones left behind:—

'To the Frisian wife comes a dear welcome-guest; the keel is at rest; his vessel is come; her husband is home; her own cherished lord she leads to the board; his wet weeds she wrings; dry garments she brings. Ah! happy is he, whom safe from the sea his true love awaits!'

But, for the most part, the Anglo-Saxons took to their poetry very sadly. The prevailing note of the old English lyric is elegiac; intense melancholy, harmonising with the gloom of Northern sea and sky, with the fatalism of their Pagan faith, is the one mood reflected in the subjective poems of the 'Exeter Book':—

'Ah! thou bright cup! Ah, thou mailed warrior!
Ah! the glory of my lord! Now has the time passed,
darkened 'neath the veil of night, as if it ne'er had been.
Where once loved warriors trod, now stands
a wall of wondrous height, worm-eaten, grim;
the might of the spears, slaughter-loving weapons,
has swept away the chiefs,—theirs was a glorious fate,—
but storms lash the rocky slopes,
and falling snowdrift binds the earth,
and all the winter's terror, when the dark night falls

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> From the Gnomic Verses of the Exeter Book; the rime is a mere accident of the translation.

with its black shadow, and summons from the north fierce storms, to the grievance of mankind. All the realm of earth is full of hardship, the world 'neath heaven is turned by fate's decree.' 1

This turn for melancholy is an abiding element in English poetry throughout its history; there can be little question that it is essentially an English characteristic, despite Matthew Arnold's oft-quoted dictum that it is altogether derived from Celtic source. But while the note of the old English lyric is elegiac, as far as its form is concerned it belongs to the epic,—the all-absorbing art-form of our oldest poetry. Epic dignity and distinction, not lyrical rapidity of movement, mark even the shortest of Anglo-Saxon songs.

And what better instrument for the grand epic style than the wondrous blank verse—the old alliterative line—of these ancient poets. Critics of Elizabethan literature delight to dwell on 'the mighty line' created by the greatest of Shakespeare's predecessors; but, ten centuries before Marlowe's genius impressed itself on the English drama, English poetry had already 'unlocked the secret of blank verse,' and had played upon 'its hundred stops.' The secret of Marlowe's great discovery lies in this, that he Teutonised the 'versi sciolti' imported from Italy, and unconsciously imparted thereto the flexibility and vigour that characterised the national metre used by the oldest of English poets, whose work has come down to

<sup>1</sup> From The Wanderer, 'Exeter Book.'

us. The high seriousness and earnestness of old English poetry; its epic style, absorbing lyrical and even dramatic elements; its subjectivity and melancholy; its subtle power of thoroughly nationalising foreign materials; its rich vocabulary and phraseology; the wonder of its varying verse, expressive of every shade of human emotion; its artistic consciousness; its avoidance of anything approaching mediæval grotesqueness,—all these qualities distinguish the remarkable poem which holds the first place in the *Codex Exoniensis*. This poem, which is probably the oldest Christiad of modern Europe, is herewith introduced to English readers, its text carefully studied and interpreted.

#### § 3.

The text is based on the editor's unpublished edition of the Exeter MS., in preparation for the Early English Text Society. The variations from the MS. will be found in 'Critical Notes' at the end of the volume.<sup>1</sup> The MS. has been followed minutely, not merely in the matter of spelling, but also as regards the divisions of the poem,—a matter of special importance hitherto neglected. Though there are no titles to the various passus, the scribe has clearly indicated the beginning of each by means of a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The system of punctuation employed has no Ms. authority, neither have the capital letters at the beginning of the lines; there is no break between the lines in the Ms., where the poem is written throughout as if prose. 1 have not marked the letters expanded; the accents are reproduced from the Ms.

long flourish of capital letters, distinguishing carefully the smaller sections from the main divisions. Thus, the MS. makes it certain that Passus III. begins with words 'Donne mid fere,' and does not include the previous section. External evidence corroborates this view. Appendix II. gives the source of Passus II.; it is obvious that the final section of the passus is directly due to the final section of the homily. It is strange that Dietrich, who first called attention to the unity of the poem, and to the chief source of its second division, should have missed this point.

In Appendix I. I have printed fifty-eight lines hitherto regarded as part of the present poem, but most assuredly, if the original scribe may be credited, the opening lines of the 'Legend of St. Guthlac'; there is absolutely no break in the MS. between these lines and the passage usually printed as the first section of the latter poem. I make bold to suggest that the whole section is a prelude to 'St. Guthlac,' with motives derived from the concluding portion of the 'Christ.' Thorpe, the first editor of the Exeter MS., is no doubt answerable for this error, which even the ingenuity of Dietrich and Grein did not detect.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thorpe's Codex Exoniensis appeared just fifty years ago. Unfortunately, he failed to see the value of 'the first 106 pages' of his book (i.e. the portion containing the present poem); his comment ran as follows:—'Though interesting to the philologist, they possess little attraction for any other class of readers. The pieces they contain are, no doubt, translations from the Latin; but their subject is not of a nature to stimulate many to search after the originals, which, if discovered, would prove of little use in elucidating the

Appendix III. is a valuable contribution made by Professor Cook to the sources of the poem, and may be regarded as affording external evidence in favour of the theory propounded above concerning the limit of the third passus. It remains but to point out that unfortunately the first part of Passus I. is lost; to give to the epic the appearance of completeness a single word has been omitted; the capital letter at the beginning of the text has no Ms. authority. The frontispiece has been added to the volume as a specimen of Anglo-Saxon art, illustrative of the subject of the second part of the poem; it belongs to the famous series of miniatures that adorn the Benedictional of St. Æthelwold.

obscurities, or correcting the errors of a version, in this and all similar cases yet known, too paraphrastic to admit of comparison.'

In 1853 Dietrich called attention to the unity of the poems, but as he had no opportunity of examining the MS., he did not perceive the real state of affairs, though he and others might have inferred it from Wanley's description of the MS. (2. page 280), where 'Passus' I., II., III., are styled 'Liber' I., II., III., though the connection of the 'Libri' was not noted. In 1857 Grein's Bibliothek included the 'Christ,' which was based on Thorpe's text. Grein accepted Dietrich's views on the subject of the poem, but printed it unnecessarily as one long poem, with twenty-two sections. In 1857 appeared the same scholar's 'Dichtungen der Angelsachsen stabreimend uebersebzt.' Little has been done for the interpretation of the poem since Grein's monumental work, though the need of a new edition has been long felt. It is a strange fact that after 1100 years and more the 'Christ' now appears for the first time as a separate volume. The translation which accompanies the text is the first attempt that has been made to interpret the poem as a piece of English literature.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. note l. i. The initials at the commencement of Passus I., II., III., are taken from the Anglo-Saxon Codex Psalterii Vossiumus (Bodleian Library), as reproduced in Professor Westwood's Facsimiles of Anglo-Saxon and Cellic Miniatures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Reproduced in reduced facsimile by Mr. Griggs, with kind permission, from the last-named book, (v. page 132.)

Long and patient search has failed to discover the source of Passus I.; this failure is especially to be deplored as one would much wish to know from what original the poet evolved the earliest dramatic scene in English literature, (v. page 18.) What a contrast an Anglo-Saxon religious drama would have presented to the homely miracles and mysteries of later centuries! The original of the greater part of Passus I. must, I think, have been a Latin hymn-cycle, the 'Joseph and Mary' section being derived from an undiscovered hymn arranged for recital by half-choirs. The crude materials used for Passus II. and III., printed at the end of the volume, attest in a remarkable way the transforming power of the poet; the well-sustained simile that closes Passus II. owes its existence to the words in the last section of St. Gregory's Homily, 'Quamvis adhuc rerum perturbationibus animus fluctuet.' The passages in the Appendix form a valuable commentary to the greater part of the text.

#### § 4.

The Exeter MS. was written some time in the tenth century, or early in the eleventh; the bulk of its contents is, however, at least two centuries older. Its dialect is West-Saxon, or 'Anglo-Saxon,' as it is generally called, but one is able to detect in a number of the poems the fossil remains of another and an older dialect. Minute philological criteria lead to the conclusion, supported strongly by other evidence, that the first of the poems pre-

served in the codex, and many more besides, are Saxon (i.e. Southern) transcriptions of Anglian (i.e. Northern) originals. Wessex merely preserved the poems, Northumbria produced them. Indeed at no time in its history has Wessex been productive of poetical work; from the days of Alfred onward its special strength lay in prose literature. Did not Chaucer recognise the fact when he made his parson exclaim:—

'Trusteth wel, I am a Sotherne man,
I cannot geste, rom, ram, ruf, by my letter,
And God wote, rime hold I but litel better,
And therefore if you list I wol not glose,
I wol you tell a litel tale in prose.'

It seems almost certain then that the 'Christ' is an Anglian poem, written before Northumbria ceased to be the great centre of poetical activity, i.e. before the beginning of the ninth century, and critics are at one in placing the 'floruit' of its poet during the second half of the eighth century. The poet in question has bequeathed to us his name by a strange device; by means of mystic runes Cynewulf worked a subtle spell whereby his authorship of this and of three other poems is incontestably established. In an 'Excursus on Cynewulf Runes,' at the end of the volume, I have considered the many questions at issue concerning this important point. It remains but to add that I am sceptical on the subject of the supposed character of the so-called 'First Riddle.' Interesting attempts have been made to write the biography of

the poet; it is not my purpose in this place to attempt a similar task, which would involve a discussion of the whole problem of Cynewulf's relation to the extant remains of Anglo-Saxon poetry. In conclusion, I would apply to our poet the commendation bestowed by an old historian on one of Cynewulf's masters and predecessors, whose fame rests solely on his Latin verse, though he too composed in the vernacular:—

'Omnium poetarum sui temporis facilé primus, tantæ eloquentiæ majestatis et eruditionis homo fuit, ut nunquam satis admirari possim unde illi in tam barbara ac rudi ætate facundia accreberit, usque adeo omnibus numeris tersa, elegans, et rotunda, bersus edidit cum antiquitate de palma contendentes.' 2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cf. Ten Brink, Early English Literature, pp. 51-59, and Appendix.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Quoted by Samuel Daniel in his *Defence of Ryme*, concerning 'Aldelmus Durotelmus, of whom we find this commendation registered'; the lines occur in an interesting passage on the learning of Saxon England, whence, too, the quotation that heads this Introduction. If only the old Elizabethans had known of Cynewulf.



# CYNEWULF'S CHRIST

## Primus Passus de Nativitate.

I.

U eart se weall-stan þe ða wyrhtan íu
Wið-wurpon to weorce. Wel þe
geriseð
þæt þu heafod síe healle mærre
And gesomnige side weallas

Fæste gefoge flint unbræcne

Dæt geond eor 8-b[yri]g eall eagna gesihbe
Wundrien to worlde wuldres ealdor.
Gesweotula nu burh searo-cræft bin sylfes weorc
So 8-fæst sigor-beorht and sona forlæt
Weall wið wealle. Nu is bam weorce bearf
Dæt se cræftga cume and se cyning sylfa
And bonne gebete nu gebrosnad is
Hús under hrofe. He bæt hra gescop
Leomo læmena nu sceal lif-frea
Done wergan heap wrabum ahreddan
Earme from egsan swa he oft dyde.
Eala bu reccend and bu riht cyning
Se be locan healde 8 lif ontyne 8
Eadga us siges obrum forwyrned
Wlitigan wil-sibes gif his weorc ne deag.

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## Part Kirst. The Nativity.

I.

'THOU art the wall-stone that the workers once rejected from the work. It well beseemeth thee, that thou shouldst be the head of this great hall. and shouldst unite, with fastening secure, the spacious walls of adamantine rock, that throughout earth all things with sight endowed may wonder evermore, O Prince of glory! Show now thy skill! reveal thy handiwork firm-set in sovran splendour! yea, leave anon the opposing walls erect! The work hath need now that the Craftsman and the King Himself should come, and should restore the house, which lieth waste beneath the roof. He formed the body erst, and the limbs of clay; now shall He, Lord of life, deliver from their foes this abject throng, these wretched ones from terror, as He oft did. O thou Ruler, and thou righteous King! Thou Keeper of the keys that open life! bless us with victory, with a bright career, denied unto another, if his work be worthless!'

Huru we for bearfe bas word spreca's [Nu gemærsi] gia\[equiv bone be mon gescop bæt he ne hete . . . ceose sprecan Cearfulra bing be we in carcerne Sitta sorgende sunnan wil-sid. Hwonne us lif-frea leoht ontyne Weor'de ussum mode to mund-boran And bæt tydre gewitt tire bewinde. Gedo usic bæs wyrde be he to wuldre forlet ba we hean-lice hweorfan sceoldan To bis enge lond e'dle bescyrede. Forbon secgan mæg se de sod spriced bæt he ahredde þa for-hwyrfed wæs Frum-cyn fira. Wæs seo fæmne geong Mæg8 manes leas be he him to meder geceas. Dæt wæs geworden butan weres frigum Dæt burh bearnes gebyrd bryd eacen wear 8. Nænig efenlic þam ær ne siþþan In worlde gewear'd wifes gearnung. bæt degol wæs dryhtnes geryne. Eal giofu gæst-lic grund-sceat geond-spreot Dær wisna fela weard inlihted Lare long-sume burh lifes fruman be ær under hooman biholen lægon Witgena wo'd-song ba se waldend cwom

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Forsooth in very need we speak these words;
Him who created man we supplicate,
that He elect not to declare in hate
the doom of us who sad in prison here
sit yearning for the sun's propitious course.
When the Lord of life revealeth light to us,
be He the guardian-angel of our souls,
and wreathe the feeble mind with radiant grace.
May He glorify us thus, His favoured ones,
when we must needs depart in abject plight
unto this narrow land, bereft of home.

Verily he may say it, who speaketh truth, that when the race of man was all depraved, He came and rescued it. Young was the maiden, a damsel sinless, whom He chose as mother. It came to pass without the love of man, that the bride was great by child-conception.

Never before or after in the world was any meed of woman like to that; it was a secret mystery of the Lord.

All ghostly grace o'erspread the realm of earth, and many a thing became illumined then through life's Creator, teachings of ancient day, which lay concealed beneath the veil of night, the sages' songs prophetic, ere the Ruler came,

Sebe reorda gehwæs ryne gemicla8 Dara be geneabhe noman scyppendes Durh hor scne had hergan willad. Eala sibbe gesih Sancta hierusalem Cyne-stola cyst cristes burg-lond Engla ebel-stol and ba ane in be Saule so fæstra simle geresta 8 Wuldrum hremge. Næfre wommes tacn In pam eard-gearde eawed weorbeg Ac be firina gehwylc feor abuge& Wærgoo and gewinnes. Bist to wuldre full Halgan hyhtes swa bu gehaten eart. Sioh nu sylfa be geond bas sidan gesceaft Swylce rodores hrof rume geond-wlitan Ymb healfa gehwone hu bec heofones cyning Si've gesece'v and sylf cyme'v Nime's eard in be swa hit ær gefyrn Witgan wis-fæste wordum sægdon Cyodon cristes gebyrd cwædon be to frofre Burga bet-licast. Nu is bæt bearn cymen Awæcned to wyrpe weorcum ebrea-Bringe blisse be benda onlyse Nibum genedde nearo-bearfe conn Hu se earma sceal are gebidan.

50

60

who speedeth on its course their every prayer, if mortals will but praise full earnestly their Maker's name, as wisdom biddeth them.

O sight of peace! holy Jerusalem! choicest of royal thrones! citadel of Christ! the native seat of angels and of the just, the souls of whom alone rest in thee ever, exulting in glory. No sign of aught unclean shall ever be beheld in that abode. but every sin shall flee afar from thee, all curse and conflict; thou art gloriously full of holy promise, e'en as thou art named. See now thyself how all the wide creation and heaven's roof surveyeth thee about, on every side, and how the King of heaven seeketh thee in His course, and cometh Himself, and taketh His dwelling in thee, as in days of yore soothsavers so wise declared in words; they made known Christ's birth; they told it for thy comfort, thou best of cities! Now the Child is come, awakened to destroy the Hebrews' works; He bringeth thee joy; He looseneth thy bonds; He hath adventured Him for men; He knoweth their need,vea, how the wretched must await compassion.

ALA wifa wynn geond wuldres þrym. 70 Fæmne freo-licast ofer ealne foldan sceat Dæs be æfre sund-buend secgan hyrdon. Arece us bæt geryne bæt be of roderum cwom Hu bu eacnunge æfre onfenge Bearnes burh gebyrde and bone gebed-scipe Æfter mon-wisan mod ne cudes. Ne we so'd-lice swylc ne gefrugnan In ær-dagum æfre gelimpan Dæt du in sundur-giefe swylce befenge Ne we bære wyrde wenan burfon 80 Toweard in tide. Huru treow in be Weor-licu wunade nu bu wuldres brym Bosme gebære and no gebrosnad wear's Mæg&-had se micla. Swa eal manna bearn Sorgum sawa'd swa eft ripa'd Cenna to cwealme. Cwæ sio eadge mæg Symle sigores full Sancta maria-Hwæt is peos wundrung pe ge wafia's And geomrende gehbum mæna8 Sunu solimæ somod his dohtor. 90 Fricga's burh fyrwet hu ic fæmnan-had

8

'O sovran Lady of the blissful skies, thou noblest maid through all the realm of earth, that the ocean-dwellers have ever heard tell of, unfold the mystery that came to thee from heaven, how thou didst in some wise receive increase by child-conception, and yet thou knewest not communion after human fashion. Truly we have not heard that ever yet, in days of yore, the like hath come to pass, such as thou in special grace receivedst. nor may we hope that it will ever chance in future time. Lo, the faith that dwelt in thee was worshipful, since thou didst in thy bosom bear the flower of glory, and thy great maidenhood was not destroyed. All the children of men as they sow in sorrow, so afterwards they reap, they bring forth for death.' Spake the blessed maiden, ever full of triumph, the holy Mary:-

'What is this wonder which ye wonder at, and grievously bemoan 'mid lamentations, thou son and thou daughter of Salem? Ye ask full anxiously how I preserved Mund minne geheold and eac modor gewear's Mære meotudes suna. Forban bæt monnum nis Cu'd geryne ac crist onwrah In dauides dyrre mægan Dæt is euan scyld eal for-pynded Wærg da aworpen and gewuldrad is Se heanra hád. Hyht is onfangen bæt nu bletsung mot bæm gemæne Werum and wifum a to worulde for 8 100 In pam up-lican engla dreame Mid so d-fæder symle wunian. Eala earendel engla beorhtast Ofer middan-geard monnum sended And so\delta-fæsta sunnan leoma Torht ofer tunglas. Du tida gehwane Of sylfum be symle inlihtes. Swa bu god of gode gearo acenned Sunu soban fæder swegles in wuldre Butan anginne æfre wære 110 Swa bec nu for bearfum bin agen geweorc Bide's burh byldo bæt bu ba beorhtan us Súnnan onsende and be sylf cyme bæt du inleohte ba be longe ær prosme bebeahte and in beostrum her Sæton sin-neahtes synnum bifealdne.

my maidenhood, my troth, and yet became great mother of the Creator's Son. Verily to men the mystery is not known; but Christ revealed in David's kinswoman, beloved of Him, that the guilt of Eve is all concluded now, the curses overthrown, and the lowlier sex is now made glorious. Hope is vouchsafed that now for men and women equally blessing may for evermore abide, amid the harmony of angels high above, with the Father of truth, to all eternity.'

Hail, heavenly beam, brightest of angels thou, sent unto men upon this middle-earth!

Thou art the true refulgence of the sun, radiant above the stars, and from thyself illuminest for ever all the tides of time.

And as thou, God indeed begotten of God, thou Son of the true Father, wast from aye, without beginning, in the heaven's glory, so now thy handiwork in its sore need prayeth thee boldly that thou send to us the radiant sun, and that thou come thyself to enlighten those who for so long a time were wrapt around with darkness, and here in gloom have sat the livelong night, shrouded in sin;

Deorc deapes sceadu dreogan sceoldan. Nu we hyht-fulle hælo gelyfa8 purh bæt word godes weorodum brungen be on frymde wæs fæder ælmihtigum Efen-ece mid god and nu eft gewear's Flæsc firena leas þæt seo fæmne gebær Geomrum to geoce. God wæs mid us Gesewen butan synnum somod eardedon Mihtig meotudes bearn and se monnes sunu Gebwære on beode. We bæs bonc magon Secgan sige-dryhtne symle bi gewyrhtum Dæs be he hine sylfne us sendan wolde. Eala gæsta god hu þu gleawlice Mid noman ryhte nemned wære Emmanuhel swa hit engel gecwæ8 Ærest on ebresc þæt is eft gereht Rume bi gerynum nu is rodera weard God sylfa mid us. Swa þæt gomele gefyrn Ealra cyning a cyning and bone clænan eac Sacerd so'd-lice sægdon toweard. Swa se mære ju melchisedech Gleaw in gæste god-þrym on-wrah Eces alwaldan. Se wæs æ bringend Lara lædend þam longe his Hyhtan hider-cyme swa him gehaten wæs

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death's dark shadow had they to endure.

Hopeful now, we trust in the salvation
brought to the hosts of men through God's own word,
which was in the beginning co-eternal
with God, the Almighty Father, and is now
flesh void of blemish, that the maiden bare
to help the wretched. God was seen'mong us
in all His sinlessness; together they dwelt,
the Creator's mighty Son and the son of man,
in peace on earth. Wherefore, as it is meet,
we may well thank the Lord of triumph aye,
that He vouchsafed to send to us Himself.

O thou God of spirits! how wisely thou
wast named, with name aright, Emmanuel!
as the angel spake the word in Hebrew first,
which in its secret meaning fully now
is thus interpreted:—'The Guardian of the skies,
God's Self, is now with us'; e'en as of yore
old men said truly that the King of kings,
and eke the cleanly Priest, would come anon.
Thus long ago the great Melchizedek,
so wise of soul, revealed the majesty
of the eternal Ruler; he was the law-bringer;
he gave them precepts, who had awaited long
His advent hither, for it was promised them,

Dætte sunu meotudes sylfa Wolde gefælsian foldan mægde Swylce grundas eac gæstes mægne Sibe gesecan. Nu hie softe bæs Bidon in bendum hwonne bearn godes Cwome to cearigum. Forbon cwædon swa Suslum geslæhte. Nu þu sylfa cum Heofones heah-cyning bring us hælo-lif Werigum wite-peowum wope forcymenum 150 Bitrum bryne-tearum. Is see bot gelong Eal æt be anum . . . . ofer-bearfum. Hæftas hyge-geomre hider [gesece Ne læt] be behindan bonne bu heonan cyrre Mænigo þus micle ac þu miltse on us Gecy ovne-lice crist nergende. Wuldres æbeling ne læt awyrgde ofer us Onwald agan. Læf us ecne gefean Wuldres bines bæt bec weordien Weoroda wuldor-cyning þa þu geworhtes ær 160. Hondum binum. Du in hean-nissum Wunast wide ferh mid waldend fæder.

that the Son Himself of the all-ruling Lord would purify the nations of the earth, and in His course would seek too the abyss. by the might of His spirit. Patiently have they waited in their fetters, till God's Child should come to the afflicted; wherefore spake thus those cast in torments:—' Come thou now thyself. Sovran of heaven! bring us salvation, weary thralls oppressed, worn out with weeping, with bitter burning tears. With thee alone resteth their cure for those in direst need. Visit us here, captives so sad of mood, nor leave behind thee, when thou turn'st from hence, so great a throng! but royally show forth thy mercy unto us, O Saviour Christ! O Prince of glory! let not the accursed hold sway o'er us; thy glory's endless joy vouchsafe to us, that those may worship thee, great Lord of hosts, whom thou createdst erst with thine own hands. Thou in the heights above dwellest for ever with the all-ruling Father.'

ALA ioseph min iacobes bearn Mæg dauides mæran cyninges Nu bu freode scealt fæste gedælan Álætan lufan mine. Ic lungre eam Deope gedrefed dome bereafod For on ic worn for be worde hæbbe Sidra sorga and sár-cwida Hearmes gehyred and me hosp sprecas Torn-worda fela. Ic tearas sceal Geotan geomor-mod. God eabe mæg Gehælan hyge-sorge heortan minre Afrefran fea-sceaftne. Eala fæmne geong Mæg8 maria. Hwæt bemurnest 8u Cleopast cearigende ne ic culpan in be Incan ænigne æfre onfunde Womma geworhtra and bu ba word spricest Swa bu sylfa sie synna gehwylcre Firena gefylled. Ic to fela hæbbe bæs byrd-scypes bealwa onfongen. Hu mæg ic ladigan laban spræce Obbe andsware ænige findan Wrapum to-wipere. Is bæt wide cu'd

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[MARY.] 'Alas! now, Joseph mine, thou child of Jacob. scion of David's stock, the glorious King, must thou forthwith renounce thy plighted troth, and leave my love?' [JOSEPH.] 'Too soon am I o'erwhelmed with grievous care; too soon bereft of honour. Forsooth through thee have I heard many a word, many an agonising bitter taunt, many an insult, and they revile me now with words of bitter wrath. My soul is sad; I must shed tears. God may easily heal the grievous sorrow of my heart, and comfort me, forlorn. Alas, young damsel, Mary maiden!' [MARY.] 'Why bemoanest thou, and criest aloud lamenting? Ne'er found I a fault in thee, or any cause of blame for evil done, and yet thou speak'st such words, as thou thyself wert filled with every sin and all transgression.' [JOSEPH.] 'Too much misery have I received from this conception. How can I escape the hateful words, or how can I find any answer now against mine angry foes? 'Tis widely known,

bæt ic of bam torhtan temple dryhtnes Onfeng freo-lice fæmnan clæne Womma lease and nu gehwyrfed is burh nat-hwylces. Me nawber deag Secge ne swige. Gif ic so sprece bonne sceal dauides dohtor sweltan 190 Stanum astyrfed. Gen strengre is bæt ic morbor hele scyle man-swara Lab leoda gehwam lifgan sibban Fraco's in folcum. Da seo fæmne onwrah Ryht-geryno and bus reordade. Soo ic secge burh sunu meotudes Gæsta geocend þæt ic gen ne conn burh gemæc-scipe monnes ower Ænges on eorgan. Ac me eaden wearg Geongre in geardum bæt me gabrihel 200 Heofones heag-engel hælo gebodade. Sægde so'd-lice þæt me swegles gæst Leoman onlyhte sceolde ic lifes brym Geberan beorhtne sunu bearn eacen godes Torhtes tir-fruma[n]. Nu ic his tempel eam Gefremed butan facne in me frofre gæst Ge-eardode. Nu bu ealle forlæt Sare sorg-ceare saga ecne bonc Mærum meotodes sunu þæt ic his modor geweard

I joyfully received a maiden pure,
immaculate; and now all this is changed,
through whom I know not. Neither availeth me,
to speak or to be silent; speak I the truth,
then must David's daughter suffer death,
slain with stones; yet 'tis a harder lot
to conceal the crime, and to be doomed to live
a perjurer, henceforth loathed by all the folk,
accursed 'mong men'. Then did the maid unravel
the mystery so true, and thus she spake:—

'Truly I say, by the Son of the Creator,
the Saviour of souls, that yet I know not
in conjugal communion any man
anywhere on earth; but it was granted me,
while still a damsel young and in my home,
that Gabriel, heaven's archangel, bade me hail,
and said in very truth, that heaven's Spirit
should with His ray illume me, that I should bear
life's Glory, an illustrious Son, the mighty Child
of God, the bright Creator. Now, without guilt,
am I become His temple; the Spirit of comfort
hath dwelt within me. Wherefore dismiss thou now
all sorry care, and say eternal thanks
to the Lord's great Son, that I became His mother,

Fæmne for 8 se-beah and bu fæder cweden 210 Woruld-cund bi wene sceolde witedom In him sylfum beon sode gefylled. Eala þu soða and þu sib-suma Ealra cyninga cyning crist æl-mihtig Hu þu ær wære eallum geworden Worulde prymmum mid binne wuldor-fæder Cild acenned burh his cræft and meaht. Nis ænig nú eorl under lyfte Secg searo-boncol to bæs swide gleaw De bæt asecgan mæge sund buendum 220 Areccan mid ryhte hu be rodera weard Æt frymde genom him to treo-bearne. Dæt wæs þara þinga þe her þeoda cynn Gefrugnen mid folcum æt fruman ærest Geworden under wolcnum bæt witig god Lifes ord-fruma leoht and bystro Gedælde dryhtlice and him wæs domes geweald And ba wisan abead weoroda ealdor. Nu sie geworden forb a to widan feore Leoht lixende gefea lifgendra gehwam 230 be in cheorissum cende weorden. And ba sona gelomp ba hit swa sceolde Leoma leohtade leoda mægbum Torht mid tunglum æfter bon tida bigong.

nathless a maiden still, and thou, I ween, art named His earthly father, should the prophecy become fulfilled aright in Him Himself.'

O thou true Sovran, and thou peaceful King, thou King of all Kings, Christ Omnipotent! how wast thou, with thy glorious Father, aye existent before all the world's estates, a child begotten by His skill and might. There liveth not a mortal under heaven, no man however wise, who is so wise, that he can tell unto the ocean-dwellers and expound aright, how the Warden of the skies took thee in the beginning for His noble child. Of all the things that mankind hath e'er heard here upon earth, this thing first came to pass beneath the clouds, that God Omniscient, the Source of life, parted in sovran will the light from darkness, wielding His decree; and thus He, Lord of hosts, commanded then:-

'Let there be light for ever and for ever, a radiant joy for each of living men who in their generations shall be born.'

And so it came to pass, when 'twas ordained; a splendour shining bright amidst the stars lighted, through the course of time, the tribes of men.

Sylfa sette bæt bu sunu wære Efen-eardigende mid binne engan frean Ær bon oht bisses æfre gewurde. Du eart seo snyttro be bas sidan gesceaft Mid bi waldende worhtes ealle. Forbon nis ænig þæs horsc ne þæs hyge-cræftig 240 De bin from-cyn mæge fira bearnum Sweotule geseban. Cum nu sigores weard Meotod mon-cynnes and bine miltse her Arfæst ywe us is eallum neod bæt we bin medren-cynn motan cunnan Ryht-geryno nu we areccan ne mægon Dæt fædren-cynn fier owihte. Du bisne middan-geard milde geblissa burh dinne her-cyme hælende crist. And þa gyldnan geatu þe in gear-dagum 250 Ful longe ær bilocen stodan Heofona heah frea hat ontynan And usic bonne gesece burh bin sylfes gong Ea\( \cert{S}\)-mod to eorban. Us is binra arna bearf. Hafa's se awyrgda wulf tostenced Deor dæd-scua dryhten þin eowde Wide towrecene bæt du waldend ær Blode gebohtes bæt se bealo-fulla Hyne heard-lice and him on hæft nime

He had Himself ordained that thou, His Son. shouldst be co-dwelling with thy only Lord, ere aught of this had ever come to pass. Lo, thou art Wisdom; with the Omnipotent thou wroughtest all this wide creation: wherefore is none so wise or so profound that he can tell thy origin aright to the sons of men. Come now, Lord of triumph, Creator of mankind, and graciously show forth thy mercy here; we all desire that we may know aright thy mother-kin, a mystery indeed; we cannot understand further in anywise thy kin paternal. Bless thou benignly all this middle-earth by thy coming hither, O thou Saviour Christ, and the golden gates that in the days of old, through the long ages, stood so firmly locked, do thou, high Lord of heaven, bid open now, and visit us, coming thy very Self humbly to earth! we need thy gracious help; the accursed wolf, the beast of darkest deed, hath scattered, Lord, thy flock, and far and wide dispersed it; what thou, Omnipotent, of old didst with thy blood redeem, the baleful one oppresseth cruelly, and taketh it in bondage,

Ofer usse nioda lust. Forbon we nergend be 260 Bidda's georn-lice breost-gehygdum bæt þu hræd-lice helpe gefremme Wergum wreccan bæt se wites bona In helle grund hean gedreose And bin hond-geweorc hæleba scyppend Mote arisan and on ryht cuman To pam up-cundan æpelan rice Donan us ær burh syn-lust se swearta gæst Forteah and fortylde bæt we tires wone A butan ende sculon ermbu dreogan 270 Butan bu usic bon ofost-licor ece dryhten Æt þam leod-sceaban lifgende god Helm alwihta hreddan wille-

### IV.

ALA pu mæra middan-geardes
Seo clæneste cwen ofer eorpan
Dara [p]e gewurde to widan feore
Hu pec mid ryhte ealle reord-berend
Hatað and secgað hæleð geond foldan
Blipe mode pæt pu bryd sie
Dæs selestan swegles bryttan
Swylce þa hyhstan on heofonum eac
Cristes þegnas cweþað and singað

despite our anxious longing. Wherefore, Saviour, we pray thee earnestly, with all our thoughts, that speedily thou grant help unto us, poor weary wretches, that the soul's destroyer may fall precipitate to hell's abyss, and that thy handiwork, Creator of all men, may then arise and come, as it is meet, unto that noble realm in heaven above, whence the swart spirit, through our love of sin, beguiled us erst; wherefore inglorious for aye must we this wretchedness endure, unless thou, Lord eternal, living God, Helm of all created things, e'en now will free us speedily from mankind's bane.

### IV.

Hail, thou glory of this middle-world,
thou purest woman throughout all the earth,
of those that were from immemorial time,
how rightly art thou named by all endowed
with gift of speech! All mortals throughout earth
declare, full blithe of heart, that thou art bride
of Him that ruleth the empyreal sphere.
So too the highest in the heavens above,
the thanes of Christ, proclaim aloud and sing,

Dæt þu sie hlæfdige halgum meahtum Wuldor-weorudes and worlfd]-cundra Hada under heofonum and hel-wara Forbon bu bæt ana ealra monna Gebohtest brymlice brist-hycgende Dæt þu þinne mæg&-had meotude brohtes Sealdes butan synnum. Nan swylc ne cwom Ænig ober ofer ealle men Bryd beaga hroden be ba beorhtan lac To heofon-hame hlutre mode Sibban sende. For on heht sigores fruma His heah-bodan hider gefleogan Of his mægen-þrymme and þe meahta sped Snude cydan þæt þu sunu dryhtnes burh clæne gebyrd cennan sceolde Monnum to miltse and be maria for 8 Efne unwemme a gehealden. Eac we bæt gefrugnon bæt gefyrn bi be So'd-fæst sægde sum wo'd-bora In eald-dagum esaias bæt he wære gelæded bæt he lifes gesteald In pam ecan ham eal sceawode. Wlat þa swa wis-fæst witga geond þeod-land Obbæt he gestarode bær gestabelad wæs Æbelic ingong. Eal wæs gebunden

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that thou by might of holiness art queen of the hosts of glory, of the ranks of men on earth 'neath heaven, and of hell's habitants. for thou alone of all the race of men with noble aspiration didst resolve to bring thy maidenhood unto the Lord, to offer it in all thy sinlessness. No ring-adorned bride like unto thee hath ever come again 'mong humankind, to send with spirit pure the glorious gift unto the heavenly home. Wherefore the Lord triumphant bade His chief messenger fly hitherward from His great glory, and anon to thee reveal His might's avail, that thou shouldst bear in purity the Son of the Supreme, in mercy to mankind, and nathless, Mary, thou shouldst be held immaculate for aye.

Eke have we heard the words that long ago the prophet truly spake concerning thee, in distant days of old, to wit, Isaiah, that he was led where he beheld aright life's dwelling-place in the eternal home; looked then the wise soothsayer o'er all the land, till that he saw where stood immovable a glorious portal; bound all about

Deoran since duru ormæte Wundur-clommum bewriben. Wende swide bæt ænig elda æfre meahte 310 Swa fæstlice fore-scyttelsas On ecnesse o in-hebba Obbe væs ceaster-hlides clustor onlucan Ær him godes engel burh glædne gebonc Da wisan onwrah and bæt word acwæ8. Ic be mæg secgan bæt sog gewearg Dæt Sas gyldnan gatu giet sume sibe God sylf wile gæstes mægne Gefælsian fæder æl-mihtig And burh ba fæstan locu foldan neosan 320 And hio bonne æfter him ece stonded Simle singales swa beclysed bæt nænig ober nymbe nergend god Hy æfre ma eft onluce %. Nu þæt is gefylled þæt se froda þa Mid eagum þær on-wlatade. Du eart þæt weall-dor þurh þe waldend frea Æne on þas eorðan ut-siðade And efne swa pec gemette meahtum gehrodene Clæne and gecorene crist æl-mihtig 330 Swa 'Se æfter him engla beoden Eft unmæle ælces binges

with precious metal was the door immense,
begirt with wondrous bands; he pondered much
how any mortal man might e'er avail
to lift the bolts and bars so firmly fixed,
yea, ever unto all eternity,
or ope the fastening of that city-gate,
until God's angel joyfully to him
disclosed how it would be, and spake these words:—

'I may tell thee,'—truly it came to pass,

'that God Himself, Father Omnipotent,
in future time, yea, by His Spirit's might,
will glorify these golden gates withal,
and through these firm-set bolts will visit earth,
and after Him shall they remain for aye,
to all eternity, so firmly closed,
that no one else but He, the Saviour God,
shall e'er avail to open them again.'

Now is the thing fulfilled that at that time the sage there with his eyes contemplated.

Thou art the wall-door; through thee the Omnipotent, the Ruler, once proceeded to this earth; and as He, Christ Almighty, found thee then adorned with all thy virtues, pure and choice, so He, the Prince of Angels, Lord of life, closed thee, immaculate e'en as of yore,

Liobu-cægan bileac lifes brytta-Iowa us nu ba are be se engel be Godes spel-boda gabriel brohte-Huru bæs biddað burg-sittende þæt du þa frofre folcum cyde hinre sylfre sunu. Sibban we motan An-modlice ealle hyhtan Nu we on bæt bearn foran breostum staria's. Gebinga us nu þristum wordum bæt he us ne læte leng owihte In bisse dea'd-dene gedwolan hyran Ac bæt he usic geferge in fæder-rice hær we sorg-lease sibban motan Wunigan in wuldre mid weoroda god-Eala bu halga heofona dryhten bu mid fæder binne gefyrn wære Efen-wesende in bam æbelan ham. Næs ænig þa giet engel geworden Ne bæs miclan mægen-brymmes nán De in roderum up rice biwitigato peodnes bry 8-gesteald and his begnunga Da bu ærest wære mid bone ecan frean Sylf settende þas sidan gesceaft Brade bryten-grundas. Bæm inc is gemæne Heah-gæst hleofæst. We be hælend crist

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after Him again, as with a wondrous key.

Show us now the grace that God's own messenger, the angel Gabriel, brought unto thee!

Forsooth we dwellers in earth's cities pray, that thou reveal their comfort unto men, thy very son. Hereafter we may all, with one accord, look forward hopefully, if now we see the Child upon thy breast.

Plead thou our cause for us with earnest words, that He may suffer us no longer here to list to Error in this vale of death, but that He lead us to the Father's realm, where sorrowless we may for evermore abide in glory with the Lord of hosts.

Hail, thou holy One, thou Lord of heaven,
thou with thy Father wast from ancient time,
co-eval in that noble home on high.
As yet there was not any angel formed,
nor any of the mighty hierarchies,
that guard the kingdom in the skies above,
the palace of the Prince and of His thanes,
when thou together with the Lord eterne
wast first ordaining all this wide creation,
this broad expanse of earth. Ye twain have fellowship
with the protecting Spirit. Saviour Christ,

Durh ea -medu ealle bidda o bæt þu gehyre hæfta stefne binra nied-biowa nergende god. Hu we sind geswencte burh ure sylfra gewill-Habbad wræc-mæcgas wergan gæstas Hetlen hel-sceaba hearde genyrwad Gebunden bealo-rapum. Is seo bot gelong Eall æt be anum ece dryhten. Hreow-cearigum help bæt bin hider-cyme Afrefre fea-sceafte beah we fæhbo wið bec burh firena lust gefremed hæbben-Ara nu onbehtum and usse yrmba gebenc Hu we tealtrigad tydran mode Hwearfia heanlice. Cym nu hæleba cyning Ne lata to lange. Us is lissa bearf bæt bu us ahredde and us hælo-giefe Sog-fæst sylle bæt we sibban forg Da sellan bing symle moten. Gebeon on beode binne willan.

V.

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ALA seo wlitige weor&-mynda full
Heah and halig heofon-cund prynes
Brade geblissad geond bryten-wongas

in lowliness we all beseech thee now, that thou mayest hear the voice of these thy thralls. thy captive bondmen here. O Saviour God, how are we harassed through our own desires! Us wretched exiles have the accursed sprites. the hateful hell-fiends, cruelly constrained, and bound with baleful bonds. With thee alone resteth redemption, O eternal Lord! Help thou the wretched, and let thine advent hither comfort the forlorn, though through our lust of sin we have engaged in feud e'en against Thee. Pity thy servants! Bethink thee of our woes. how in our feebleness we stumble here, and wander abjectly. Come now, O King of men, tarry not too long; we need thy gentle grace! Deliver thou us and grant us verily thy healing gift, so that from now henceforth we may for evermore, while in this world, attempt the better things, and work thy will.

## V.

Hail, thou Glory, beauteous and worshipful, high and holy, heavenly Trinity! blessed far and wide throughout the spacious world.

C

Da mid ryhte sculon reord-berende Earme eor 8-ware ealle mægene Hergan healice nu us hælend god Wærfæst onwrah bæt we hine witan motan. Forbon hy dæd-hwæte dome geswidde Dæt so'd-fæste seraphinnes cýnn Uppe mid englum a bremende Unabreotendum brymmum singað Ful healice hludan stefne Fægre feor and neah. Habbab folgoba Cyst mid cyninge. Him bæt crist forgeaf bæt hy motan his æt-wiste eagum brucan Simle singales swegle gehyrste Weor dian waldend wide and side. And mid hyra fibrum frean æl-mihtges Onsyne wear dia de ecan dryhtnes And ymb beoden-stol bringad georne Hwylc hyra nehst mæge ussum nergende Flihte lacan frid-geardum in-Lofia's leof-licne and in leohte him Da word cwebay and wuldriay Æbelne ord-fruman ealra gesceafta. Halig eart bu halig heah-engla brego Soo sigores fréa simle bu bist halig

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Dryhtna dryhten a þin dom wunað

Thee rightly must all men endowed with speech, all earth's poor mortals, praise with might and main, for now the trusty Saviour hath revealed God unto us, that we may know Him right. Wherefore the heavenly race of Seraphim, so true, so zealous, and with glory crowned, doth sweetly sing amid the hosts above, hymning ever with unwearying notes, with rapture high, and with exalted strain, afar and near. Theirs is the noblest office in the service of the King. Christ granted them that with their eyes they may enjoy His being, and ceaselessly from pole to pole adore their Sovran Lord, wreathed with celestial light; and with their wings do they the presence guard of the Omnipotent, the eternal Lord, and throng around the Prince's throne, all eager which one of them may nearest to our Saviour disport in flight within the courts of peace; they praise Him, the Beloved, and in His light these words they speak to Him, and glorify the noble Source of all created things :-'Holy art thou, holy, Lord of archangels,

'Holy art thou, holy, Lord of archangels, true Lord of triumph, ever art thou holy, King of all kings, ever thy glory liveth

Eor&-lic mid ældum in ælce tid Wide geweorbad. Du eart weoroda god Forbon bu gefyldest foldan and rodoras Wigendra hleo wuldres bines. Helm al-wihta sie be in heannessum Ece hælo and in eorban lof Beorht mid beornum. Du gebletsad leofa be in dryhtnes noman dugebum cwome Heanum to hrobre. De in heahbum sie A butan ende ece herenis. Eala hwæt þæt is wræc-lic wrixl in wera life Dætte mon-cynnes milde scyppend Onfeng æt fæmnan flæsc unwemme And sio weres friga wiht ne cube Ne burh sæd ne cwom sigores agend Monnes ofer moldan ac þæt wæs ma cræft Donne hit eor & buend ealle cuban burh geryne hu he rodera brim Heofona heah frea helpe gefremede Monna cynne burh his modor hrif. And swa for gongende folca nergend His forgif-nesse gumum to helpe Dæled dogra gehwam dryhten weoroda. Forbon we hine dom-hwate dædum and wordum Hergen hold-lice. Dæt is healic ræd

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on earth' mong men, to all eternity, praised far and wide. Thou art the Lord of hosts. for with thy glory thou hast filled the earth and all the skies, thou Shield of warriors! Helm of all things! endless Hosanna be thine in the heights above, and noble praise on earth, among the hosts of men. Abide thou blessed, that in the Lord's name camest unto men to comfort the dejected! in the high heavens eternal praise be thine, world without end!' How wondrous is the change in mortal life, since the benign Creator of mankind took from a damsel flesh immaculate, nor knew she anything of human love, nor came the Lord of triumph down to earth through seed of man; but it was greater craft than earth's inhabitants might understand, how the Glory of the skies, through mystery, the Sovran Lord of heaven, effected help for all mankind, e'en through His mother's womb. And aye, unceasingly, the Saviour of men bestoweth His forgiveness unto folk, each day, to help them, He the Lord of hosts. For this should we extol Him loyally, zealous in deed and word. 'Tis a noble rede,

Monna gehwylcum þe gemynd hafað

Dæt he symle oftost and inlocast

And georn-licost god weorþige.

He him þære lisse lean forgildeð

Se gehalgoda hælend sylfa

Efne in þam eðle þær he ær ne cwom

In lifgendra londes wynne

Dær he gesælig siþþan eardað

Ealne widan feorh wunað butan ende. Amen-

# Secundus Passus de Ascensione.

I.

U du geornlice gæst gerynum

Mon se mæra mod-cræfte sec
burh sefan snyttro bæt bu soð wite
Hu bæt geeode þa se æl-mihtiga
Acenned wearð burh clænne hád
Sibban he marian mægða weolman
Mærre meowlan mund-heals geceas
bæt bær in hwitum hræglum gewerede
Englas ne oðeowdun þa se æþeling cwom
Beorn in betlem Bodan wæron gearwe
ba þurh hleobor-cwide hyrdum cyðdon

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for every mortal mindful of the past,
that aye, most often and most inwardly,
and with all eagerness, he worship God.
He will be recompensed for his sweet love,
yea, by the hallowed Saviour Himself,
e'en in that home where he came ne'er before,
the happy land where the immortals are;
there blessed shall he abide for evermore,
and dwell eternally, world without end. Amen.

# Part Second. The Ascension.

I.

Seek earnestly, with all thy secret lore,
with all thy faculties, thou mighty man,
with the wisdom of thy soul, that thou may'st know,
how it befell, when the Omnipotent
was born unto the world in purity,
when he had chosen Mary as protector,
glory of maidenhood, damsel renowned,
that there appeared not angels then arrayed
in robes of white, whenas the noble Chief
came into Bethlehem. Angels were ready,
for they revealed in accents clear and told

Sægdon soone gefean bætte sunu wære In middan-geard meotudes acenned In betleme. Hwæbre in bocum ne cwið Dæt hy in hwitum bær hræglum ogywden In þa æþelan tid swa hie eft dydon Da se brega mæra to bethania beoden brym-fæst his begna gedrhyt Gela de leof weorud. Hy bæs lareowes On þam wil-dæge word ne gehyrwdon Hyra sinc-giefan. Sona wæron gearwe Hæled mid hlaford to bære halgan byrg bær him tacna fela tires brytta Onwrah wuldres helm word-gerynum Ærbon up-stige án-cenned sunu Efen-ece bearn agnum fæder bæs ymb feowertig be he of foldan ær From deade aras dagena rimes. Hæfde þa gefylled swa ær biforan sungon Witgena word geond woruld innan burh his prowinga. Degnas heredon Lufedun leof-wendum lifes agend Fæder frum-sceafta. He him fægre þæs Leofum gesibum lean æfter geaf And bæt word acwæ8 waldend engla Gefysed fréa mihtig to fæder rice-

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to shepherds the sure joy that there was born upon this middle-earth, in Bethlehem, the Son of the Creator; yet in books it saith not that they appeared then at that glorious tide in robes of white, e'en as they did anon when the great Leader in Bethania, the Lord majestic, called His band of thanes, the host belovéd; on that welcome day they slighted not the word their Teacher spake, their bounteous Dispenser. Soon were they dight, men with their Master, for the holy burgh; there Splendour's Lord, the Helm of bliss, revealed full many a sign to them in mystic words, ere He ascended, only begotten Son, the Child with His own Father co-eternal; then forty numbered days had run their course, since He had risen first from earth, from death. Then had He fulfilled the prophets' words, as they had sung before throughout the world, yea, by His passion. His servants lauded Him, they praised all-lovingly the Source of life, the Father of creation! Wherefore in aftertime He nobly recompensed His comrades dear; and these words spake the angels' mighty Lord, whilst hastening onward to His Father's realm:-

Gefeoð ge on ferððe næfre ic from-hweorfe Ac ic lufan symle læste wið eowic And eow meaht giefe and mid-wunige Awo to ealdre bæt eow æfre ne bið burh gife mine godes onsien. Fara's nu geond ealne yrmenne grund Geond wid-wegas weoredum cy 8a8 Bodia and brema beorhtne geleafan And fulwia's folc under roderum Hweorfa's to heofonum hergas breotab Fylla and feoga feond-scype dwæsca b Sibbe saway on sefan manna burh meahta sped. Ic eow mid-wunige Forg on frofre and eow frige healde Streng du stabol-fæstre on stowa gehware. Da wear's semninga sweg on lyfte Hlud gehyred heofon-engla breat Weorud wlite-scyne wuldres aras Cwomun on corbre. Cyning ure gewat burh bæs temples hrof bær hy to-segun Da be leofes ba gen last weardedun On bam bing-stede begnas gecorene. Gesegon hi on heahbu hlaford stigan God-bearn of grundum. Him wæs geomor sefa Hat æt heortan hyge murnende

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'Rejoice ye in spirit; ne'er will I turn away,
but I will show my love toward you still,
and grant you might, and will abide with you
to all eternity, and through my grace
ne'er shall ye know the want of sustenance.
Go now o'er all the spacious tract of earth,
o'er the wide ways, announce it unto men,
preach and proclaim the glorious belief,
and baptize folk beneath the firmament;
turn then to heaven; shatter heathen idols,
cast them down and spurn them; extinguish enmity,
and sow ye peace within the minds of men,
by virtue of your gifts. I will abide with you
in solace, and will keep you aye in peace,
with sure unfailing strength in every place.'

Then suddenly a sound was heard on high, loud in the air; a band of heavenly angels, a beauteous host, the messengers of glory, in legion came; our King departed thence, e'en through the temple's roof, where they beheld, they who were watching still the Dear One's track, His chosen thanes, there in that meeting-place; they saw their Lord, the Child divine, ascend from earth into the heights; sad were their souls; their spirit's grief burned hot within their hearts,

Dæs þe hi swa leofne leng ne mostun Geseon under swegle. Song áhofun Aras ufan-cunde æbeling heredun Lofedun lif-fruman leohte gefegun be of bæs hælendes heafelan lixte Gesegon hy æl-beorhte englas twegen Fægre ymb þæt frum-bearn frætwum blican Cyninga wuldor. Cleopedon of heahbu Wordum wræt-licum ofer wera mengu Beorhtan reorde. Hwæt bida ge Galilesce guman on hwearfte-Nu ge sweotule geseo soone dryhten On swegl faran sigores ágend. Wile up heonan eard gestigan Æbelinga ord mid bas engla gedryht Ealra folca fruma fæder eþel-stóll.

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# II.

E mid þyslice þreate willað ofer heofona gehlidu hlaford fergan
To þære beorhtan byrg mid þas bliðan gedrytEalra sige-bearna þæt seleste
And æþeleste þe ge her onstariað
And in frofre geseoð frætwum blican

for now they might no longer see 'neath heaven One so beloved as He. Then raised a song the messengers celestial; praised they the Prince; they lauded life's Creator; joyed they in the light that gleamed so brightly from the Saviour's head; saw they angels twain, resplendent, fair, shining in splendour'round that first-born Child, the Glory of all Kings; they cried out from on high, in wondrous words, o'er all the hosts of men, with voices resonant:—' Why bide ye here, and stand about, ye Galilean men? Now surely do ye see the Sovran true wending triumphant to the empyreal sphere. The Chief of princes with these angel-hosts, the Lord of all mankind, ascendeth hence unto His native home, His fatherland.'

### II.

'Fain would we o'er the vaulted roof of heaven conduct the Lord with all this company, this joyous throng, unto the shining burgh.'

'He whom ye gaze on here so rapt, the best and noblest of the sons of victory, He whom ye see in solace shine so fair,

Wile eft swa-beah eordan mægde Sylfa gesecan side herge And ponne gedeman dæda gehwylce para de gefremedon folc under roderum. Da wæs wuldres weard wolcnum bifongen Heah-engla cyning ofer hrofas upp Haligra helm. Hyht wæs geniwad Blis in burgum burh bæs beornes cyme-Gesæt sige-hremig on þa swiþran hand Ece ead-fruma agnum fæder-Gewitan him þa gongan to hierusalem Hæled hyge-rofe in da halgan burg Geomor-mode bonan hy god nyhst Up-stigende eagum segun Hyra wil-gifan. Dær wæs wopes hring Torne bitolden. Wæs seo treow lufu Hat æt heortan hreder innan weoll Beorn breost-sefa. Bidon ealle bær Degnas prym-fulle peodnes gehata In bære torhtan byrig tyn niht ba-gen Swa him sylf bibead swegles agend Ær þon up-stige ealles waldend On heofona gehyld hwite cwoman Eorla ead-giefan englas to-geanes. Dæt is wel cweden swa gewritu secga8

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will surely yet again with ample host revisit all the races of the earth, and then will He adjudge their every deed, that mortals have achieved beneath the skies.'

Then was Glory's Guardian, the archangels' King, the Helm of holy men, bewrapt in clouds, high o'er the roofs. Joy was renewed and bliss in heaven's cities at the Prince's coming; on His own Father's right-hand sat He down triumphant, the eternal Source of good.

Sad then in spirit, went the valiant men and journeyed to Jerusalem's holy burgh, departing from the place where they so late beheld with their own eyes God rise aloft, their kind Dispenser. There was unbroken weeping, their faithful love was overwhelmed with grief, their hearts were hot, their bosoms surged within, their thoughts were all a-glow. His glorious thanes awaited there their Sovran Lord's behests, within that noble burgh, ten nights withal, as He Himself, the Lord of heaven, bade, e'er He ascended in omnipotence to heaven's keeping, and white angels came toward the bounteous Prince of warrior-men.

It is well spoken, as the Scripture saith,

þæt him al-beorhte englas togeanes In þa halgan tid heapum cwoman Sigan on swegle þa wæs symbla mæst Geworden in wuldre. Wel bæt gedafena8 Dæt to þære blisse beorhte gewerede In bæs beodnes burg begnas cwoman Weorud wlite-scyne gesegon wil-cuman On heah-setle heofones waldend Folca feorh-giefan frætwum ealles waldend Middan-geardes and mægen-brymmes-Hafa's nu se halga helle bireafod Ealles bæs gafoles be hi gear-dagum In bæt orlege unryhte swealg. Nu sind forcumene and in cwic-susle Gehynde and gehæfte in helle grund Dugubum bidæled deofla cempan-Ne meahtan wiber-brogan wige spowan Wæpna wyrpum sibban wuldres cyning Heofon-rices helm hilde gefremede Wip his eald-feondum anes meahtum. þær he of hæfte áhlód huþa mæste Of feonda byrig folces unrim bisne ilcan breat be ge her on-staria. Wile nu gesecan sawla nergend Gæsta gief-stol godes agen bearn

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that radiant angels at that holy tide,
descending in the clouds, in legion came
to meet Him; then in glorious heaven arose
the greatest jubilee. 'Twas well befitting
that His servants came to the Beatitude,
unto the Prince's city, brightly clad,
a beauteous host; they saw their welcome Lord
on His exalted throne, Sovran of heaven,
Source of men's life, ruling in splendour all,—
this middle-earth and the majestic host.

'Now hath the Holy One despoiled hell of all the tribute that in ancient days it basely gorged within that home of strife. Now are they quelled, the devil's champions, in living torture humbled and held bound, bereft of prowess, down in hell's abyss; the gruesome foes might not in battle speed with weapon-thrusts, when He, the King of Glory, the Helm of heaven's realm, waged warfare there against His ancient foes with His sole might. Then drew He forth from durance the best spoil, a folk unnumbered, from the burgh of fiends, this very band which ye here gaze upon.

Now will He seek the Spirit's throne of grace, the proper Child of God, Saviour of souls,

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Æfter guð-plegan. Nu ge geare cunnon Hwæt se hlaford is se pisne here læde %. Nu ge from-lice freondum to-geanes Gongao glæd-mode. Geatu ontynao. Wile into eow ealles waldend Cyning on ceastre corore ne lytle Fyrn-weorca fruma folc gelædan In dreama dream &e he on deoflum genom burh his sylfes sygor. Sib sceal gemæne 580 Englum and ældum á forð heonan Wesan wide-ferh. Wær is æt-somne Godes and monna gæst-halig treow Lufu lifes hyht and ealles leohtes gefea-Hwæt we nú gehyrdan hu þæt hælu-bearn burh his hyder-cyme hals eft forgeaf Gefreode and gefreopade folc under wolcnum Mære meotudes sunu þaet nu monna gehwylc Cwic bendan her wunat geceosan mót Swa helle hienbu swa heofones mærbu. 590 Swa þæt leohte leoht swa da laban niht. Swa þrymmes þræce swa þrystra wræce-Swa mid dryhten dream swa mid deoflum hream. Swa wite mid wrapum swa wuldor mid arum-Swa lif swa dead swa him leofre bid To gefremmanne benden flæsc and gæst

after the conflict. Now ye know right well
what Lord is He that leadeth all this host;
now boldly go ye forward to meet friends,
joyful in spirit. Open, O ye gates!
the Lord of all, the King, creation's Source,
will lead through you unto the citadel,
unto the joy of joys, with host not small,
the folk which from the devils He hath reft
by His own victory. Peace shall be shared
by angels and by men hence evermore
to all eternity; 'twixt God and man
there is a covenant, a ghostly pledge,—
love, and life's hope, and joy of all the light.'

Lo! we have heard now how the Saviour-Child dispensed salvation by His advent hither, how He, the Lord's great Son, freed and protected folk'neath the clouds, so that each mortal now, while he is dwelling here alive, must choose,—be it hell's base shame, or heaven's fair fame, be it the shining light, or the loathsome night, be it majestic state, or the rash ones' hate, be it song with the Lord, or with devils discord, be it pain with the grim, or bliss with cherubim, be it life or death, as it shall liefer be for him to act while flesh and spirit dwell

Wunia's in worulde Wuldor pæs age prynysse prym ponc butan ende

#### III.

ÆT is þæs wyrðe þætte wer-þeode Secgen dryhtne þonc duguða gehwylcre 600 be us sið and ær simle gefremede burh monig-fealdra mægna geryno-He us æt giefed and æhta sped Welan ofer wid-lond and weder libe Under swegles hleo sunne and mona Æþelast tungla eallum scinað Heofon-condelle hælebum on eor Jan-Dreose's deaw and ren dugu'se weccab To feorh-nere fira cynne Ieca eor & welan. Dæs we ealles sculon 610 Secgan bonc and lof beodne ussum. And huru pære hælo pe he us to hyhte forgeaf Da he þa yrmðu eft-oncyrde Æt [h]is up-stige be we ær drugon And gebingade beod-buendum Wid fæder swæsne fæhba mæste Cyning an-boren cwide eft-onhwearf Saulum to sibbe se be ær sungen

within the world. Wherefore let glory be, thanks endless, to the noble Trinity.

#### III.

'Tis therefore fitting that the tribes of men give thanks unto the Lord for every good which late and early He hath rendered us, through mystery of wonders manifold. He giveth us food and fulness of possession, wealth o'er the spacious earth, and gentle weather 'neath the protecting heavens; the sun and moon, noblest of constellations, heaven's candles, shine forth for all mankind on earth alike; dew falleth and rain; they call abundance forth to nourish life for all the race of man; earth's riches they increase. For all these gifts must we give thanks and praise unto our Lord, vet first for our salvation, the hope vouchsafed, when He at His ascension turned away the miseries which we had suffered long, when He, the one-born King, on man's behalf, compounded with His Father, the Beloved, the greatest feud, averted the decree, for our soul's peace, which had been uttered erst

burh yrne hyge ældum to sorge. Ic bec ofer eor an geworhte on bære bu scealt yrmbum lifgan 620 Wunian in gewinne and wræce dreogan Feondum to hrobor fus-leod galan And to bære ilcan scealt eft geweorban Wyrmum aweallen bonan wites fyr Of bære eor dan scealt eft gesecan. Hwæt ús þis se æþeling yore gefremede Da he leómum onfeng and lic-homan Monnes magu-tudre sibban meotodes sunu Engla ebel upgestigan Wolde weoroda god. Us se willa bicwom 630 Heanum to helpe on ba halgan tíd. Bi bon giedd awræc iob swa he cube Herede helm wera hælend lofede And mid sib-lufan sunu waldendes Freo-noman cende and hine fugel nemde Done iudeas ongietan ne meahtan. In være god-cundan gæstes strengvu Wæs bæs fugles flyht feondum on eorban Dyrne and degol pam be deorc gewit Hæfdon on hrebre heortan stænne. 640 Noldan hi þa torhtan tacen oncnawan

be him beforan fremede freo-bearn godes?

in angry mood for mankind's tribulation:

'I wrought thee on earth, on it shalt thou live in want,

shalt dwell in toil, and exile shalt endure, shalt sing the death-song for thy foes' delight, and shalt be turned again to that same earth with worms o'ercharged, from whence thou shalt anon, thereafter, seek the fire of punishment'.

Lo! this the noble Prince assuaged for us, when He took limb and fleshly covering from child of man; when He, the Maker's Son, the Lord of hosts, willed to ascend on high unto the home of angels; at that holy tide, the wish arose to help us, the forlorn.

Of Him sang Job a song as he well could;
he praised the Helm of men, lauded the Saviour,
and in his love devised a noble name
for the Ruler's Son, and named Him as a bird,
a name which Jews might no wise understand.
By virtue of the Spirit's strength divine,
hidden and secret from His foes on earth
was that bird's flight, from those who in their breasts
had understanding dark, a stony heart;
they would not recognise the glorious signs
which He, God's noble Child, had wrought' fore them,

Monig mis-líc geond middan-geard. Swa se fæle fugel flyges cunnode Hwilum engla eard up gesohte Modig meahtum strang bone maran ham Hwilum he to eorban eft gestylde burh gæstes giefe grund-sceat sohte Wende to worulde. Bi bon se witga song. He wæs upp-hafen engla fæ8mum In his þa miclan meahta spede Heah and halig ofer heofona brym-Ne meahtan þa þæs fugles flyht gecnawan De bæs up-stiges and-sæc fremedon And bæt ne gelyfdon bætte lif-fruma In monnes hiw ofer mægna þrym Halig fróm hrusan ahafen wurde. Da us geweordade se bas world gescop Godes gæst-sunu and us giefe sealde Uppe mid englum ece stabelas And eac monig-fealde modes snyttru Seow and sette geond sefan monna-Sumum word-labe wise sende& On his modes gemynd burh his mubes gæst Æbele andgiet. Se mæg eal fela Singan and secgan þam bið snyttru cræft Bifolen on fer'de. Sum mæg fingrum wel

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various and manifold, on middle-earth.

E'en thus the noble Bird assayed his flight;

whilom He sought on high the angels' land,
the noble home, so proud, so strong in might;

whilom He came adown to earth again;
He sought earth's region in His spirit's grace,
and wended to the world. Of this the prophet sang:—

'He was borne aloft embraced in angels' arms unto the spacious glory of His might, above the heaven's splendour, high and holy.'

Of that Bird's flight they might no knowledge have, who made denial of the ascension, and who believed not that the Source of life, in form of man, all holy from the earth, was raised aloft above the glorious hosts.

Then He who shaped the world, God's Spirit-Son, ennobled us, and granted gifts to us, eternal homes' mid angels upon high; and wisdom, too, of soul, full manifold He sowed and set within the minds of men.

To one He sendeth, unto memory's seat, through spirit of the mouth, wise eloquence, and noble understanding; he can sing and say full many a thing, within whose soul is hidden wisdom's power. With fingers deft

Hlude fore hælebum hearpan stirgan Gleo-beam gretan. Sum mæg god-cunde Reccan ryhte æ. Sum mæg ryne tungla Secgan side gesceaft. Sum mæg searolice Word-cwide writan. Sumum wiges sped Giefed æt gube bonne gar-getrum Ofer scild-hreadan scentend senday Flacor flan-geweorc. Sum mæg fromlice Ofer sealtne sæ sund-wudu drifan Hreran holm-præce. Sum mæg heanne beam Stælgne gestigan. Sum mæg styled sweord Wæpen gewyrcan. Sum con wonga bigong Wegas wid-gielle. Swa se waldend us God-bearn on grundum his giefe brytta %. Nyle he ængum anum ealle gesyllan Gæstes snyttru þy læs him gielp scebbe burh his anes cræft ofer obre for .

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### IV.

US god meahtig geofum un-hneawum Cyning al-wihta cræftum weorðaþ Eorþan tuddor swylce eadgum blæd Seleð on swegle sibbe ræreþ Ece to ealdre engla and monna. fore warrior-bands one can awake the harp, the minstrel's joy. One can interpret well the law divine, and one the planets' course and wide creation. One cunningly can write the spoken word. To one He granteth skill, when in the fight the archers swiftly send the storm of darts, the winged javelin, over the shield's defence. Fearlessly another can o'er the salt sea urge the ocean-bark and stir the surging depth. One can ascend the lofty tree and steep. One can fashion well steeled sword and weapon. One knoweth the plains' direction, the wide ways. Thus the Ruler, Child divine, dispenseth unto us His gifts on earth; He will not give to any one man all the spirit's wisdom, lest pride injure him, raised far above the rest by his sole might.

#### IV.

Thus God Almighty, King of created things, ennobleth by unsparing gifts, by crafts, the progeny of earth, and giveth joy unto the blessed in heaven, and setteth peace for angels and for men to all eternity.

Swa he his weorc weorpa Bi bon se witga cwæ 690 Dæt á-hæfen wæren halge gimmas Hædre heofon-tungol healice upp Sunne and mona. Hwæt sindan þa Gimmas swa scyne buton god sylfa-He is se so\d-fæsta sunnan leoma Englum and eor & warum æbele scima. Ofer middan-geard mona lixe& Gæst-lic tungol swa seo godes circe burh gesomninga sodes and ryhtes Beorhte blice's swa hit on bocum cwib 700 Sippan of grundum god-bearn á-stag Cyning clænra gehwæs þa seo circe hér Æ-fyllendra eaht-nysse bád Under hæþenra hyrda gewealdum. Dær 8a syn-scea8an sobes ne giemdon Gæstes bearfe ac hi godes tempel Bræcan and bærndon blod-gyte worhtan Feodan and fyldon. Hwæbre for bicwom burh gæstes giefe godes þegna blæd Æfter up-stige ecan dryhtnes. 710 Bi bon salomon song sunu dauibes Giedda gearo-snottor gæst-gerynum Waldend wer-peoda and bæt word acwæ8. Cub bæt geweorbeb bætte cyning engla

He honoureth His work, e'en as the prophet spake, that holy gems were raised on high aloft, the radiant constellations of the sky, the sun and moon. Lo now, what are these gems that shine resplendent, but e'en God Himself? He is the true refulgence of the sun, a noble light for angels and for men. O'er all the middle-earth the moon doth shine, a ghostly star, e'en as the Church of God glisteneth bright, whene'er the True and Just are linked together; as it saith in books, that when the Child divine, the King all pure, had risen from the earth, then the Church here of the faithful ones endured oppression beneath the tyranny of heathen rule; then did the sinful take no heed of truth, nor of their spirit's need, but brake and burned God's temple; they hated and destroyed, and bloodshed wrought; nathless through the Spirit's grace the welfare of God's servants was maintained, after the ascension of the eternal Lord. Thereof sang Solomon, the son of David, all-wise in song and secrets spiritual, the ruler of the nations, and these words spake:-'It shall be known once, that the angels' King,

Meotud meahtum swid munt gestylled Gehleape's hea-dune hyllas and cnollas Bewrid mid his wuldre woruld alysed Ealle eor & buend burh bone æbelan styll. Wæs se forma hlyp þa he on fæmnan astag Mægeð un-mæle and þær mennisc hiw Onfeng butan firenum bæt to frofre gewear'd Eallum eor 8-warum. Wæs se ober stiell Bearnes gebyrda þa he in binne wæs In cildes hiw clabum bewunden Ealra þrymma þrym. Wæs se þridda hlyp Rodor-cyninges ræs þa he on rode astag Fæder frofre gæst. Wæs se feor a stiell In byrgenne ba he bone beam ofgeaf Fold-ærne fæst. Wæs se fifta hlyp Da he hell-warena heap forbygde In cwic-susle cyning inne gebond Feonda fore-sprecan fyrnum teagum Grom-hydigne bær he gen lige8 In carcerne clommum gefæstnad Synnum gesæled. Wæs se siexta hlyp Haliges hyht-plega ba he to heofonum astag On his eald-cybbe ba was engla breat On þa halgan tid hleahtre bliþe Wynnum geworden. Gesawan wuldres brym

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the Lord so strong in might, shall mount a hill, shall leap the lofty downs, and hills and knolls shall wreathe with glory, and by that noble leap shall free the world and all that dwell on earth.'

The first leap was, when He came to the damsel, the spotless maid, and sinlessly took there a human form, and was anon the solace of all mankind. The second leap was this,the Infant's birth, when He was in the manger, the Glory of all Glories swathed in clothes, in form of child. The heavenly King's career was the third leap, when He, the Father's Solace, ascended on the rood. Into the sepulchre was the fourth leap, when He had left the tree and lay within that cave. The fifth leap was, when He bowed down the multitude of hell in living torment, and bound their king within, the devils' advocate, so grim of mood, with fiery fetters, where he lieth yet, fastened in prison there with manacles, and shackled with his sins. The sixth leap was the revel of the Holy, when He rose unto His ancient home; the angelic host was blithe with sweetest laughter and with joy on that holy tide; they saw the Crown of Glory,

Æbelinga ord ebles neosan 740 Beorhtra bolda ba wear'd burg-warum Eadgum ece gefea æbelinges plegabus her on grundum godes ece bearn Ofer heah hleobu hlypum stylde Modig æfter muntum swa we men sculon Heortan gehygdum hlypum styllan Of mægne in mægen mærbum tilgan Dæt we to bam hyhstan hrofe gestigan Halgum weorcum bær is hyht and blis Gebungen begn-weorud. Is us bearf micel 750 bæt we mid heortan hælo secen bær we mid gæste georne gelyfa'd Dæt bæt hælo-bearn heonan up-stige Mid usse lic-homan lifgende god. Forbon we a sculon idle lustas Syn-wunde forseon and bæs sellran gefeon-Habbad we us to frofre fæder on roderum Ælmeahtigne. He his áras þonan Halig of heahou hider onsended ba us gescildab wid scebbendra 760 Eglum earh-farum þi læs un-holdan Wunde gewyrcen bonne wroht-bora In folc godes for onsende onsende Of his brægd-bogan biterne stræl.

the noble Chief, approach those bright abodes, His Fatherland. That revel of the Prince brought endless joy to those blessed denizens.

Thus God's eternal Child, here upon earth, sprang boldly o'er the lofty hills, by leaps, from mount to mount; and e'en so must we men, with our hearts' inmost thoughts, by such leaps, spring from virtue unto virtue, and for glory strive, so that through holy works we may ascend to the highest height, where there is joy and bliss and ministering legions. Great is our need to seek salvation there with all our hearts, where earnestly in spirit we repose, so that the Saviour-Child, the living God, may with our bodies soar aloft from hence.

Wherefore we must contemn all idle lusts and wounds of sin, and cherish goodlier things; we have our solace in the Omnipotent, our Father in heaven; He, the Holy One, will send His angels hither from on high to shield us from the noxious arrow-shafts of those that work our bane, lest gruesome fiends should deal us wounds, whenas the Enemy, the great Accuser, sendeth the bitter dart among the folk of God from his drawn bow.

Forpon we fæste sculon wið þam fær-scyte
Symle wærlice wearde healdan
Dy læs se attres ord in gebuge
Biter bord-gelac under ban-locan
Feonda fær-searo. Dæt bið frecne wund
Blatast benna. Utan us beorgan þa
Denden we on eorðan eard weardigen.
Utan us to fæder freoþa wilnian.
Biddan bearn godes and þone bliðan gæst
Dæt he us gescilde wið sceaþan wæpnum
Laþra lyge-searwum se us lif forgeaf
Leomu lic and gæst. Si him lof symle
Durh woruld worulda wuldor on heofnum.

770

V.

E pearf him ondrædan deofla strælas
Ænig on eorðan ælda cynnes
Gromra gar-fare gif hine god scildep
Duguða dryhten. Is þam dome neah
þæt we gelice sceolon leanum hleotan
Swa we wide feorh weorcum hlódun
Geond sidne grund. Us secgað bec
Hú æt ærestan ead mod astag
In middan-geard mægna gold-hord

Verily must we keep constant watch,
and must beware, against the sudden shot,
lest the envenomed point, the bitter dart,
the fiends' pernicious artifice, should strike
beneath the bones' enclosure; its wound is grievous,
the ghastliest of gashes. May we guard us then,
whilst we hold habitation upon earth;
and be we wishful for the Father's peace;
pray we the Son of God, and the kindly Spirit,
that He protect us from the spoilers' weapons,
the wiles of foes; He gave us life and limb,
body and eke soul; ever to Him be praise
and glory in the heavens, world without end!

#### V.

Not any of the race of men on earth
need ever dread him of the devils' shafts,
the fiends' spear-storm, if God, the Lord of hosts,
protecteth him. The day of doom is nigh,
when each of us shall gain the recompense
that by our works we have through life amassed
on this wide world. 'Tis told to us in books,
how the Treasury of glory, God's noble Son.
descended humbly to this middle-earth,

In fæmnan fæ8m freo bearn godes Halig of heahbu. Huru ic wene me And eac ondræde dóm gy reþran Donne eft cyme's engla beoden De ic ne heold teala bæt me hælend min On bocum bibead. Ic bæs brogan sceal Geseon sýn-wræce þæs þe ic soð talge hær monig beog on gemot læded Fore onsyne eces demanbonne · h · cwaca gehyre cyning mæðlan Rodera ryhtend sprecan rebe word ham be him ær in worulde wace hyrdon bendan · m · and · † · ybast meahtan Frofre findan. Dær sceal forht monig On þam wong-stede werig bidan Hwæt him æfter dædum deman wille Wrabra wita. Bib se · P · scæcen Eorban frætwa · n · wæs longe I · flodum bilocen lif-wynna dæl F · on foldan bonne frætwe sculon Byrnan on bæle. Blac rasetteg Recen reada leg rebe scribed Geond woruld wide wongas hreosa's Burg-stede bersta's brond bis on tyhte Æleg eald-gestreon unmurnlice

790

800

into the Virgin's womb, when He came first, holy from on high. Alas! my mind presageth; I fear that then'twill be a sterner doom, when He, the Lord of hosts, cometh again, for feebly kept I what my Saviour bade in His books. Wherefore shall I see terror and tribulation, I know full well, when many to the synod shall be led, into the presence of the eternal Judge.

The Beenest there shall quake, when he heareth the Lord, the heaven's Ruler, utter words of wrath to those who in the world obeyed Him ill. while they might solace find most easily for their Bearning and their Deed. Many afeard shall wearily await upon that plain what penalty He will adjudge to them for their deeds. The Minsomeness of earthly gauds shall then be changed. In days of yore Unknown, Lake-floods embraced the region of life's joy, and all earth's fortune; then each precious thing shall be consumed in fire; bright and swift the ruddy flame shall rage, and fiercely stride o'er the wide world; the plains shall waste away; the citadels shall crash; the fire shall speed; unpityingly shall he, greediest of guests,

Gæsta gifrast þæt geo guman heoldan Denden him on eorban onmedla wæs-Forbon ic leofra gehwone læran wille bæt he ne agæle gæstes bearfe Ne on gylp geote benden god wille bæt he her in worulde wunian mote Somed sibian sawel in lice In bam gæst-hofe. Scyle gumena gehwylc On his gear-dagum georne bibencan bæt us milde bicwom meahta waldend Æt ærestan þurh þæs engles word. Big nu eorneste bonne eft cymeg Rede and ryhtwis. Rodor bid onhrered And pas miclan gemetu middan-geardes Beheofia bonne beorht cyning leana b bæs be hy on eorban eargum dædum Lifdon leahtrum fá. þæs hi longe sculon Fer & - werige on fon in fyr-ba & e Wælmum biwrecene wrab-lic and-leanbonne mægna cyning on gemot cyme8 brymma mæste þeod-egsa bið Hlud gehyred bi heofon-woman Cwaniendra cirm cerge reota's Fore onsyne eces deman Da be hyra weorcum wace truwiad.

820

consume the treasures which men prized of old, whilst pride abode with them upon this earth. Wherefore would I instruct each well-beloved, lest he be careless of his spirit's need, or pour it forth in boasting, whilst God willeth that he may here abide within the world, whilst soul with body, the guest-house it is in, may journey on together. It behoveth each, during his life-days, to remember well, how all-benign was the Omnipotent when He first came, e'en as the angel spake. He will be stern then, when He cometh again, wrathful and rigorous. The heavens shall quail, and all the great estates of middle-earth shall quake, when He, bright King, requiteth them, for that they lived on earth in wickedness, stained with transgression; wherefore they shall long, weary of life, beset with flames, endure dire retribution in a sea of fire, when the great King in highest majesty to that tribunal cometh; then men's dismay, the cry of anguish, shall be heard aloud amid the noises of the heavens; sadly shall they bewail before the eternal Judge, who have but faint reliance in their works.

Đær biþ o'ð-ywed egsa mara Donne from frum-gesceape gefrægen wurde Æfre on eor an. Dær bið æghwylcum Syn-wyrcendra on þa snudan tid Leofra micle bonne eall beos læne gesceaft Dær he hine sylfne on bam sige-breate Behydan mæge bonne herga fruma Æbelinga ord eallum demeð Leofum ge ladum lean æfter ryhte beoda gehwylcre. Is us bearf micel bæt we gæstes wlite ær þam gryre-brogan On þas gæsnan tid georne biþencen. Nu is bon gelicost swa we on lagu-flode Ofer cald wæter ceolum liðan Geond sidne sæ sund-hengestum Flod-wudu fergen. Is bæt frecne stream Yoa ofermæta be we her on lacao Geond bas wacan woruld windge holmas Ofer deop gelad. Wæs se drohtad strong Ær pon we to londe geliden hæfdon Ofer hreone hrycg ba us help bicwom bæt us to hælo hybe gelædde Godes gæst-sunu and us giefe sealde Dæt we oncnawan magun ofer ceoles bord Hwær we sælan sceolon sund-hengestas

840

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Then greater terror shall be manifest
than ever hath been heard of upon earth,
yea, from the first beginning; at that sudden time
each evil-doer will have liefer far
than all this transient creation
some place where, in that onward rush of triumph,
he may conceal him, when the Lord of hosts,
the Chief of Princes, shall adjudge to all,
to friends and foes alike, to every man,
a righteous recompense. Great is our need,
that in this barren time, ere that grim dread,
we should bethink us of our spirit's grace.

Now 'tis most like as if we fare in ships on the ocean-flood, over the water cold, driving our vessels through the spacious seas with horses of the deep. A perilous way is this of boundless waves, and these are stormy seas, on which we toss here in this feeble world, o'er the deep paths. Ours was a sorry plight, until at last we sailed unto the land, over the troubled main. Help came to us, that brought us to the haven of salvation, God's Spirit-Son, and granted grace to us, that we might know, e'en from the vessel's deck, where we must bind with anchorage secure

Ealde y&-mearas ancrum fæste-Utan us to þære hy&e hyht staþelian Da us gerymde rodera waldend Halge on heahþu þa he heofonum astag-

## Tertius Passus de Die Judicii.

I.

ONNE MID FERE fold-buende Se micla dæg meahtan dryhtnes Æt midre niht mægne bihlæmeð

Scire gesceafte swa oft sceada fæcne
Deof prist-lice pe on pystre fared 870
On sweartre niht sorg-lease hæled
Semninga for-fehd slæpe gebundne
Eorlas ungearwe yfles genæged.
Swa on syne beorg somod up cymed
Mægen-folc micel meotude getrywe
Beorht and blipe. Him weorped blæd gifendonne from feowerum foldan sceatum
Dam ytemestum eorpan rices
Englas æl-beorhte on efen blawad
Byman on brehtme beofad middan-geard
Hruse under hælepum. Hlydad tosomne

our ocean-steeds, old stallions of the waves.

O let us rest our hope in that same port,
which the Lord Celestial opened for us there,
holy on high, when He to heaven ascended!

# Part Third. The Day of Judgment.

I.

ITH sudden fear, at midnight, direfully, the great day of the Lord Omnipotent shall overwhelm the denizens of earth and bright creation, e'en as some wily robber, some daring thief that prowleth in the dark, in the swart night, surpriseth suddenly careless mortals bound in happy sleep, and basely challengeth them unprepared. Then unto Zion's hill a mighty host, radiant and blissful, shall ascend together, the faithful of the Lord; glory shall be theirs. Then, too, from all four corners of the world, from furthest regions of the realm of earth, resplendent angels shall with one accord sound their loud trumpets, and mid-earth shall quake beneath the feet of men. Gloriously and long

Trume and torhte wið tungla gong
Singað and swinsiaþ suþan and norþan
Eastan and westan ofer ealle gesceaft
Weccað of deaðe dryht-gumena bearn
Eall monna cynn to meotud-sceafte
Eges-lic of þære ealdan moldan hatað hy upp-astandan
Sneome of slæpe þy fæstan. Þær mon mæg sorgende
folc

890

900

Gehyran hyge-geomor hearde gefysed Cearum cwibende cwicra gewyrhtu Forhte á-færde. Dæt bið fore-tacna mæst Dara be ær obbe sið æfre gewurde Monnum ob-ywed bar gemengde beo8 Onhælo gelac engla and deofla Beorhtra and blacra. Weorbed bega cyme Hwitra and sweartra swa him is ham sceapen Ungelice englum and deoflum. bonne semninga on syne beorg Suþan eastan sunnan leoma Cyme's of scyppende scynan leohtor bonne hit men mægen modum ahycgan Beorhte blican bonne bearn godes Durh heofona gehleodu hider og-yweg. Cyme& wundorlic cristes onsyn Æþel-cyninges wlite eastan fram roderum

shall they blow together toward the stars' career, and sing melodiously from south and north, from east and west, o'er all creation's realm, and wake from death unto the final doom, aghast from the old earth, the sons of men and all mankind, and bid them then arise forthwith from their deep sleep. There shall one

hear

a sorrowing host and dismal, hard bestead, sorely afeard, bewailing woefully their deeds when living. Of all presaging signs, which aye, erewhile or since, were shown to men, this shall be greatest; to wit, the hidden hosts of angels and of devils, the bright and dark, shall be commingled there; yea, both shall come, the white and black, e'en as a home is shaped for angels and for devils all unlike.

Then unto Zion's hill, full suddenly, a sun-beam from south-east shall come anon from the Creator, shining more brilliantly than mortals may conceive of in their minds, gleaming full brightly; then the Son of God shall hitherward appear o'er heaven's vaults; wondrous from the east of heaven shall come the aspect of the noble King, Christ's presence,

On sefan swete sinum folce Biter bealo-fullum gebleod wundrum Eadgum and earmum ungelice-He bid pam godum glæd-mod on gesihbe Wlitig wynsumlic weorude þam halgan 910 On gefean fæger freond and leoftæl. Lufsum and libe leofum monnum To sceawianne bone scynan wlite Wedne mid willum waldendes cyme Mægen-cyninges þam þe him on mode ær Wordum and weorcum wel gecwemdun-He bid pam yflum eges-lic and grim-lic To geseonne synnegum monnum ham hær mid firenum cuma's for's for-worhtebæt mæg wites to wearninga bam be hafað wisne geboht

920

Dæt se him eallunga owiht ne ondræde8 Se for være onsyne egsan ne weorbed Forht on ferde bonne he frean gesihd Ealra gesceafta andweardne faran Mid mægen-wundrum mongum to þinge-Ond him on healfa gehwone heofon-engla breat Ymb-utan fara albeorhtra scolu Hergas haligra heapum geneahhe-Dyne's deop gesceaft and fore dryhtne fære's

benign with sweetest grace for His own folk, bitter for the baleful, marvellously visaged, diversely for the blessed and the forlorn.

Unto the good, the host of holy ones,
His presence shall be winsome, beauteous, glad,
loving and gracious, fraught with fair delight.
Sweet shall it be and pleasant for His beloved
to gaze upon that aspect all so fair,
benign of will, the advent of their Lord,
their mighty Sovran, for in former days
their words and works were pleasing unto Him.
Unto the evil, unto sinful men,
grim shall He be and fearful to behold;
with their sins they come there, damned eternally.

He that is wise of thought may well regard

as a sign that he need be nowise adread, if he, afore that Presence, becometh not dismayed with terror in his soul, when he see'th creation's Lord advance before him there, with mighty wonders, to the doom of many, while on each side of Him angelic hosts fare round about, legions of radiant ones, armies of saints, with numerous multitudes. Then shall creation's depth resound; o'er earth,

Wælm-fyra mæst ofer widne grund. Hlemmed hata leg heofonas berstad Trume and torhte tungol of-hreosa8 Donne weorbed sunne sweart gewended On blodes hiw seo &e beorhte scan Ofer ær-woruld ælda bearnum. Mona bæt sylfe be ær mon-cynne Nihtes lyhte niber gehreose And steorran swa some streday of heofone Durh & strongan lyft stormum abeatne-Wile ælmihtig mid his engla gedryht Mægen-cyninga meotod on gemot cuman brym-fæst beoden. Bid bær his begna eac Hreb-eadig heap. Halge sawle Mid hyra frean fara's bonne folca weard burh egsan brea eorgan mægge Sylfa gesece Weorbe geond sidne grund Hlud gehyred heofon-byman stefn And on seofon healfa swogad windas Blawa's brecende bearhtma mæste Wecca and wonia woruld mid storme. Fylla's mid feore foldan gesceafte. Donne heard gebrec hlud ún-mæte Swar and swillic. Sweg-dynna mæst Ældum eges-lic eawed weorbed

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940

before the Lord, the fiercest fire shall rage;
the burning flames shall roar; the heavens shall burst;
the planets, bright and steadfast, shall fall down,
and the sun itself shall then be changed, all swart,
to the hue of blood,—the sun that shone so bright,
above the former world, for all mankind;
likewise the moon, that erewhile gave forth light
for mortals through the night, shall fall adown,
and the stars shall fall from heaven precipitate,
tempest-driven through the stormy air.

Then to the judgment, with His angel-host, will come the Omnipotent, the King of Kings, the Lord majestic, and eke a glorious band shall be there of His own thanes; yea, holy souls shall journey with their Lord, when the Guardian of men shall visit all the races of the earth with direful penalty. From pole to pole the blast of heaven's trumpet shall be heard, and from all seven sides the winds shall moan, and with tumultuous roar shall blow and break, waking and wasting all the world with storm, o'erthrowing all creation with their breath; a grievous crash shall then be manifest, loud and immeasurable; of all fierce dins this shall be fiercest, a terror unto folk.

Dær mægen werge monna cynnes Wornum hweorfa's on widne leg Da þær cwice meted cwelmende fýr Sume up sume niber ældes fulle. Donne bid untweo bæt bær adames Cýn cearena full cwibed gesargad Nales fore lytlum leade geomre Ac fore þam mæstan mægen-earfebum. Donne eall preo on efen nime Won fyres wælm wide tosomne Se swearta lig sæs mid hyra fiscum Eorpan mid hire beorgum and up-heofon Torhtne mid his tunglum. Teon-leg somod Drybum bærned breo eal on an Grimme togædre. Grornað gesargad Eal middan-geard on ba mæran tid-

960

970

#### II.

WA se gifra gæst grundas geond-seceð Hiþende leg heah-getimbro
Fylleð on fold-wong fyres egsan
Wid-mære blæst woruld mid-ealle
Hat heoro-gifre Hreosað geneahhe
To-brocene burg-weallas Beorgas gemeltað

Then legions of the race of men, accursed, shall throng unto the all-embracing flame, and living feel the fire's fatal touch, some up, some down, with burning all fulfilled. Small doubt that there the cheerless race of Adam shall utter lamentations, woebegone, afflicted with no feeble tribulation, but with great anguish, direfullest and worst; the livid surge of fire, the swarthy flame, shall seize all there alike, at the same time, afar and wide; to wit, seas with their fish, earth with her hills, and eke the heaven above bright with its constellations; the avenging flame shall forthwith ravage all the regions three, fiercely, with fearful onset; all middle-earth, afflicted at that mighty time, shall mourn.

#### II.

E'en thus the greedy guest shall visit earth, the ravaging flame shall hurl with fire's terror the loftiest piles adown unto the plain; the fierce-devouring, hot, wide-spreading blast shall overthrow the world withal; shattered the city-walls shall fall; the hills shall melt

And heah-cleofu þa wið holme ær Fæste wið flodum foldan scehdun Stið and stæð-fæst staþelas wið wæge Wætre windendum. Donne wihta gehwylce 980 Deora and fugla dead-leg nimed Fære'd æfter foldan fyr-swearta leg Weallende wiga. Swa ær wæter fleowan Flodas afysde bonne on fyr-ba'de Swela's sæ-fiscas sundes getwæfde Wæg-deora gehwylc werig swelte8. Byrneb wæter swa weax. Dær bid wundra má Donne hit ænig on mode mæge abencan Hu bæt gestun and se storm and seo stronge lyft Breca's brade gesceaft. Beornas greta's 990 Wepa's wanende wergum stefnum Heane hyge geomre hreowum gedreahte-Seobe's swearta leg synne on fordonum And góld-frætwe gleda forswelga8 Eall ær-gestreon ebel-cyninga-Dær bið cirm and cearu and cwicra gewin Gehreow and hlud wop bi heofon-woman Earmlic ælda gedreag. Donan ænig ne mæg Firen-dædum fah frið gewinnan Leg-bryne losian londes ower-1000 Ac bæt fyr nime8 burh foldan gehwæt

and the high cliffs, that erewhile parted earth stoutly and steadfastly from ocean, barriers against the floods, bulwarks against the waves and circling waters. Yea, the fatal flash shall seize each living creature, beast and bird; the swarthy flame shall then bestride the world like a raging warrior; where erst the waters flowed, the rushing floods, a sea of fire shall burn the fishes of the deep; reft of their craft, all ocean's monsters shall a-weary die; water shall burn as wax; more wonders shall be there than any mortal may conceive in mind, when the roar and the storm and the raging blast shall shatter all creation; men shall then wail, with abject voices shall they weep and moan, humbled, saddened, with penitence o'erwhelmed. Those damned by sin shall surge in swarthy fire, and gledes shall gorge the golden ornaments, the ancient treasures of the kings of earth. 'Mid heaven's roar a cry of woe shall rise, the anguish of the living, grief and lament, the sorry plight of men. No mortal there, with sinful deeds o'erstained, may peace achieve, or anywhere escape the burning flame; forsooth the fire shall seize each thing on earth,

Græfe's grim-lice georne asece's Innan and utan eor an sceatas Obbæt eall hafa's ældes leoma Woruld-widles wom wælme forbærned. Donne mihtig god on bone mæran beorg Mid by mæstan mægen-brymme cyme& Heofon-engla cyning halig scine Wuldorlic ofer weredum waldende god-Ond hine ymb-utan æbel-dugud betast Halge here-fegan hlutre blicag Eadig engla gedryht in-geboncum Forhte beofia's fore fæder egsan. Forbon nis ænig wundor hu him woruld-monna Seo unclæne gecynd cearum sorgende Hearde ondrede Sonne sio halge gecynd Hwit and heofon-beorht heag-engla mægen For være onsyne beov egsan afyrhte Bida's beofiende beorhte gesceafte Dryhtnes domes. Daga eges-licast Weorpe's in worulde ponne wuldor-cyning burh brym bread beoda gehwylce Hate's a-risan reord-berende Of fold-grafum folc anra gehwylc Cuman to gemote mon-cynnes gehwone. Donne eall hrade adames cynn

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shall fiercely delve, and eagerly shall search, the tracts of earth within and eke without, until the fire's glow hath purged with heat each blemish of the world's pollution.

Then God Almighty, heavenly angels' King, with greatest majesty shall thither come to that noble hill; glorious o'er His hosts, the Sovran Lord in holiness shall shine; and, Him around, the goodliest chivalry, the holy warrior-band, blessed angel-troop, shall brightly gleam; in terror of the Father, their inmost thoughts afeared, e'en they shall quake. Yea, 'tis no wonder that the race unclean of worldly men should sorely be adread, should direfully lament, when the holy race, so white and heavenly bright, the archangels' host, before that Presence is with fear aghast; trembling the radiant beings shall abide their Sovran's doom. Most terrible of days that day shall be, whenas the glorious King shall mightily o'erwhelm the nations all, and bid each folk, creatures with speech endowed, arise from out their earthly sepulchres, and come each man to that assemblage there. Full quickly then shall Adam's kin take flesh;

Onfeho flæsce weorbeo fold-ræste Eardes æt ende sceal bonne anra gehwylc Fore cristes cyme cwic ârisan Leodum onfon and lic-homan 1030 Ed-geong wesan hafa's eall on him Dæs be he on foldan in fyrn-dagum Godes obbe gales on his gæste gehlód Geara gongum. Hafað æt-gædre bú Lic and sawle. Sceal on leoht cuman Sinra weorca wlite and worda gemynd And heortan gehygd fore heofona cyning. Donne bib geyced and geedniwad Mon-cyn burh meotud micel arise8 Dryht-folc to dome sibban deabes bend 1040 To-lese lif-fruma. Lyft bid onbærned Hreosa's heofon-steorran hyba's wide Gifre glede gæstas hweorfa8 On ecne eard opene weorbad. Ofer middan-geard. Monna dæde Ne magun hord wera heortan gebohtas Fore waldende wihte bemiban. Ne sindon him dæda dyrne ac þær bið dryhtne cuð On þam miclan dæge hu monna gehwylc Ær earnode eces lifes 1050 And eall andweard bæt hi ær obbe sið

their earthly rest and sojourning shall then have end, for at Christ's advent thitherward each mortal quickened shall arise again, and shall take limb and fleshly covering, and shall be young again, possessed of all, that he, while here on earth, in former days, in the course of years, did heap upon his soul, of good or ill; both shall be joined again, body and soul; the image of his works, the memory of his words, the thoughts of his heart, shall come to light before the heavenly King. Mankind shall be increased then and renewed by its Creator; a mighty multitude shall rise to judgment, when the Source of life shall loose the bonds of death; the sky shall glow, the stars of heaven shall fall, the greedy flame shall ravage far and wide; spirits shall wend to their eternal home; the deeds of men shall then be manifest throughout mid-earth. The treasure-hoard of men, their hearts' deep thoughts, nowise before the Sovran may be hid: deeds are not dark to Him; on that great day it shall be known unto the Lord how each hath erewhile merited eternal life, and all shall be revealed that each hath wrought,

Worhtun in worulde. Ne bid bær wiht for-holen Monna gehygda ac se mæra dæg Hreber-locena hord heortan gebohtas Ealle ætywe8. Ær sceal gebencan Gæstes bearfe sebe gode mynteg Bringan beorhtne wlite bonne bryne costag Hat heoru gifre hu gehealdne sind Sawle wid synnum fore sige-deman-Donne sie byman stefen and se beorhta segn 1060 And bæt hate fýr and seo héa duguð And se engla brym and se egsan brea And se hearda dæg and seo hea ród Ryht aræred rices to beacne Folc-dryht wera biforan bonna8 Sawla gehwylce para be sid obbe ær On lic-homan leopum onfengen. Donne weoroda mæst fore waldende Ece and ed-geong andweard gæ8 Neode and nyde bi noman gehatne 1070 Bera's breosta hord fore bearn godes Feores frætwe wile fæder eahtan Hu gesunde suna sawle bringen Of pam e'le pe hi on lifdon.

Donne beo'd bealde pa pe beorhtne wlite Meotude bringa'd bid hyra meaht and gefea early or late, on earth; nought shall be hid of mortals' inmost thoughts, but that great day shall there disclose the locked mind's treasury, the meditations of men's hearts. Erewhile must he bethink him of his spirit's need, who fain would bring to God an aspect fair, when that devouring fire before the Judge assayeth how souls have been restrained from sin. Lo, then the trumpet's voice, the standard bright, the glowing fire, the glorious chivalry, the noble throng of angels, the pang of terror, the day so stern, and the exalted rood, rightwise raised up in sign of mastery, shall summon forward all the hosts of men, the souls of all that from eternal time took limb within the body's covering. A mighty host, deathless, with youth renewed, shall pass before the Sovran's presence there by dire compulsion forced, yea, called by name, bearing before God's Child their bosom's hoard, their spirit's treasures; then will the Father see how all unmarred His sons may bring their souls e'en from that land wherein they lived erewhile. They shall be bold that bring unto the Lord an aspect fair; blissful indeed shall be

Swide gesælig-lic sawlum to gielde Wuldor-lean weorca. Wel is ham he motun On ha grimman tid gode lician.

III.

ÆR him sylfe geseoð sorga mæste Syn-fá men sarig-ferðe Ne bid him to are bæt bær fore ell-beodum Usses dryhtnes ród andweard stondeg Beacna beorhtast blode bestemed Heofon-cyninges hlutran dreore Biseon mid swate bæt ofer side gesceaft Scire scine Sceadu beo bidyrned Dær se leohta beam leodum byrhteg bæt beah to teonum weorbed beodum to brea bam be bonc gode Wom-wyrcende wita ne cubun Dæs he on bone halgan beam áhongen wæs Fore mon-cynnes man-forwyrhtupær he leof-lice lifes ceapode Deoden mon-cynne on bam dæge Mid by weorde be nó wom dyde His lic-homa leahtra firena Mid by usic alysde. Dæs he eft-lean wile

1080

1090

their might and joy, their souls' great recompence, the glorious guerdon of their works. Happy they, who at that awful time are dear to God!

## III.

But sin-stained mortals, sad in soul, shall see their direfullest affliction there in this, not for their glory shall our Sovran's rood, the brightest of all beacons, stand forth there 'fore all the tribes of earth, wet with the blood of heaven's King, bedewed with His pure gore, o'erflowing with His sweat, gleaming effulgent o'er wide creation. Shadow shall be scattered, where'er the bright beam shineth forth for men; nathless shall it discomfort and torment all those who, erewhile working wickedness, knew not the thanks that due were unto God, for that He hung upon the holy tree, all for the base misdeeds of human kind. There He, the Prince, whose body wrought no sin, nor guilty was of any wicked deed, sold His life lovingly upon that day, for mankind's sake, e'en for the self-same price wherewith He ransomed us. For all this grace

burh eorneste ealles genomian Donne sio reade ród ofer ealle 1100 Swegle scine on bære sunnan gyld. On ba forhtlice firenum fordone Swearte syn-wyrcend sorgum wlita %. Geseo him to bealwe bæt him betst bicwom Dær hy hit to gode ongietan woldan. And eac ba ealdan wunde and ba openan dolg On hyra dryhtne geseo dreorig-fer de Swa him mid næglum þurh-drifan nið-hycgende ba hwitan honda and ba halgan fet And of his sidan swa some swat forletan IIIO bær blod and wæter butu æt-somne Ut bicwoman fore eagna gesyho Rinnan fore rincum ba he on rode wæs-Eall bis magon him sylfe geseon bonne Open orgete bæt he for ælda lufan Firen-fremmendra fela browade. Magun leoda bearn leohte oncnawan Hu hine lygnedon lease on geboncum Hysptun hearm-cwidum and on his hleor somod Hyra spatl speowdon spræcon him edwit 1120 And on bone eadgan andwlitan swa some Hel-fuse men hondum slogun Folmum areahtum and fystum eac

sternly will He exact His payment then, when the blood-red rood in the ethereal sky shall brightly shine, where once the sun was wont. Fearful and sorrowful shall they look thereon, dark sinners damned by base iniquity; the best thing in the world shall seem their bane, when they would fain regard it as their bliss. With souls a-weary shall they see withal the ancient wounds and gashes on the Lord, e'en as the base contrivers pierced with nails the hands so white and eke the holy feet, and from His side, too, let the gore pour forth, and blood and water both at once, commingled, came gushing forth before the people there, before their eyes, while He was on the rood. All this may they themselves there contemplate open and manifest, how much He bore for love of men, for wicked sinners' sake; the sons of men may easily perceive how they, false in their thoughts, belied Him then, mocked Him with insult, and upon His face e'en spat their spittle, spake to Him with taunt, and on His blessed countenance withal the hell-prone miscreants struck Him with their hands, with their outstretched palms, and with their fists,

And ymb his heafod heardne gebigdon Beag byrnenne blinde on geboncum Dysge and gedwealde. Gesegun ba dumban gesceaft Eorgan eal-grene and up-rodor Forhte gefelan frean prowinga And mid cearum cwiddun beah hi cwice næron Da hyra scyppend sceaban onfengon 1130 Syngum hondum. Sunne wear adwæsced bream abrysmed ba sio beod geseah In hierusalem godwebba cyst þæt ær gam halgan huse sceolde To weorbunga weorud sceawian Ufan eall forbærst þæt hit on eorban læg On twam styccum bæs temples segl Wundor-bleom geworht to wlite bæs huses Sylf slat on tu swylce hit seaxes ecg Scearp burh-wode. Scire burstan 1140 Muras and stanas monge æfter foldan And seo eorde eac egsan myrde Beofode on bearhtme and se brada sæ Cyode cræftes meaht and of clomme bræc Up yrringa on eorban fæ8m. Ge on stede scynum steorran forleton Hyra swæsne wlite. On þa sylfan tid Heofon hluttre ongeat hwa hine healice

and round about His head a cruel crown, a crown of thorns they wreathed, blind in their thoughts, foolish and erring. They saw how dumb creation, the earth all green, and the ethereal sky. affrighted, felt the sufferings of the Lord; how sorely mourned they, though they were not quick, when impious men with sinful hands did seize their very Maker! The sun became obscured, darkened with misery; and in Jerusalem the people saw the choicest of all webs, that multitudes were wont to marvel at, the glory of the holy house of God, they saw it rent, so that in pieces twain it lay upon the earth; the temple's veil, with wondrous colours wrought to deck that house, was riven asunder, as a falchion's edge, full sharp, had passed there-through. Stone walls a-many, throughout earth's tract, with headlong ruin fell; and all the earth was troubled sore with fear. and quaked with sudden shock; the spacious sea showed forth its mighty power, and burst its bonds, and o'er earth's bosom dashed in angry mood; yea, in their radiant homes the stars then lost their winsome beauty; at that self-same time the heaven serene discerned who erst had made it

Torhtne getremede tungol-gimmum. Forbon he his bodan sende þa wæs geboren ærest 1150 Gesceafta scir-cyning. Hwæt eac scyldge men Gesegon to sobe by sylfan dæge be on prowade peod-wundor micel Dætte eor de ageaf þa hyre on lægun. Eft lifgende up ástodan Da be heo ær fæste bifen hæfde Deade bibyrgde be dryhtnes bibod Heoldon on hrebre. Hell eac ongeat Scyld-wreccende bæt se scyppend cwom Waldende god þa heo þæt weorud ageaf 1160 Hlobe of bam hatan hrebre hyge wear's mongum blissad Sawlum sorge to-glidene. Hwæt eac sæ cy8de Hwa hine gesette on sidne grund Tir-meahtig cyning forbon he hine tredne him Ongean gyrede bonne god wolde Ofer sine y de gan eah-stream ne dorste His frean fet flode bisencan. Ge eac beamas onbudon hwa hy mid bledum sceop Monge nales feá 8a mihtig god On hira anne gestag bær he earfebu 1170 Gebolade fore bearfe beod-buendra

La licne dea leodum to helpe.

Da wear'd beam monig blodigum tearum

resplendent upon high with starry gems; forsooth it sent its heralds when was born creation's noble King. E'en guilty men beheld in very sooth on that same day, whereon He suffered, a marvel passing great, to wit, earth yielded those who in her lay; then rose they up and living stood again, whom she had erewhile held with firmest grip, the dead and buried, who had kept in mind their Lord's commands. Eke sin-avenging hell knew that the Maker and the ruling God was come, when it surrendered up that host from her hot bosom; blissful were many hearts, grief vanished from their souls. Lo! too, the sea declared who set it on its spacious bed,the glorious King; certes, it made a path for Him to tread, when God desired to fare o'er the ocean-waves; the water durst not then submerge its Master's feet with flowing tide. Yea, many a tree, not few, likewise proclaimed who shaped them with their blossoms, when mighty God ascended one of them, where for the need of earth's inhabitants He suffered pain, a loathsome death, to succour human kind. Beneath its bark full many a tree was then

Birunnen under rindum reade and bicce Sæp weard to swate. Dæt asecgan ne magun Fold-buende burh frod gewit Hu fela þa onfundun þa gefelan ne magun Dryhtnes prowinga deade gesceafte. Da be æbelast sind eor dan gecynda And heofones eac heah-getimbro 1180 Eall fore pam anum unrot gewear Forht afongen. Deah hi fer 8-gewit Of hyra æþelum ænig ne cuþen Wendon swa þeah wundrum þa hyra waldend fór Of lic-homan. Leode ne cuban Mod-blinde men meotud oncnawan Flintum heardran þæt hi frea nerede Fram hell-cwale halgum meahtum Alwalda god bæt æt ærestan Fore-boncle men from fruman worulde 1190 burh wis gewit witgan dryhtnes Halge hige-gleawe hælebum sægdon Oft nales æne ymb þæt æþele bearn Dæt se earcnan stan eallum sceolde To hleo and to hrober hæleba cynne Weorgan in worulde wuldres agend Eades ord-fruma burh ba æbelan cwenn.

suffused with tears of blood, all red and thick; their sap was turned to gore. Earth's denizens, however wise they be, cannot declare how many things which feel not, insensate things, experienced then the sufferings of their Lord. The noblest of the species of the earth, and eke the lofty structures upon high, for that alone were seized with sudden fear, and sad became; in their inherent nature, though they no mental understanding had, yet wondrously they knew it, when their Lord forth from His body fared. Benighted men, harder than flints, would not acknowledge then their Maker, that the Lord, Almighty God, had saved them from the agonies of hell, e'en by His holy might, nor that of yore, in the world's beginning, the prophets of the Lord, far-seeing men, holy and wise of mind, had told to folk anent the noble Child, oft-times, not once, by wisdom of their souls, that through the noble woman He should be a precious Rock here in this world below, the Refuge and the Help of all mankind, the Lord of glory, the first Cause of bliss.

WÆS weneð se þe mid gewitte nyle Gemunan þa mildan meotudes lare And eal da earfedu be he fore ældum adreag Forbon be he wolde bæt we wuldres eard In ecnesse agan mosten-Swa þam bið grorne on þam grimman dæge Domes bæs miclan bam be dryhtnes sceal Deag-firenum forden dolg sceawian Wunde and wite on werigum sefan-Geseo's sorga mæste hu se sylfa cyning Mid sine lic-homan lysde of firenum burh milde mod bæt hy mostun mán-weorca Tome lifgan and tires blæd Ecne agan. Hy bæs edles bonc Hyra waldende wita ne cubon-Forbon bær to teonum ba tacen geseoð Orgeatu on gode ungesælge Donne crist site on his cyne-stole On heah-setle heofon-mægna god Fæder ælmihtig folca gehwylcum Scyppend scinende scrife bi gewyrhtum Eall æfter ryhte rodera waldend.

1200

1210

What hope hath he who wittingly disdaineth to bear in mind his Master's gentle lore, and all the miseries He endured for men, wishful that we might possess on high, to all eternity, the home of bliss? Grievous indeed shall be their lot, who damned by deadly sins must on that awful day of mighty doom behold with souls a-weary the gashes, wounds, and torments of the Lord; greatest their woe to see how that the King with His own body ransomed them from sin, in meekness, so that they might live, devoid of their ill-deeds, and have the endless bliss of heavenly glory. They did not know the thanks due to their Sovran for this heritage; wherefore, to their affliction, shall they see signs unpropitious manifest in God, when Christ shall sit there on His kingly throne, on His high seat, while the Almighty Father, the radiant Creator, Lord of the hosts of heaven, prescribeth righteously withal for every man according to his deeds.

pónne beog gesomnad on þa swiþran hond Da clænan folc criste sylfum Gecorene bi cystum þa ær sinne cwide georne Lustum læstun on hyra lif-dagum. Ond bær wom-sceaban on bone wyrsan dæl Fore scyppende scyrede weorba'd. Hate's him gewitan on ba winstran hond Sigora soo-cyning synfulra weorud. per hy arasade reota and beofia Fore frean forhte. Swa fule swa gæt Unsyfre folc arna ne wena %. Donne big gæsta dóm fore gode sceaden Wera cneorissum swa hi geworhtun ær þær bið on eadgum eð gesyne preo tacen somod bæs be hi hyra beodnes wel Wordum and weorcum willan heoldon. An is ærest orgeate bær bæt hy fore leodum leohte blicab Blæde and byrhte ofer burga gesetu-Him onscina & ær-gewyrhtu On sylfra gehwam sunnan beorhtran-Oper is to-eacan andgete swa some bæt hy him in wuldre witon waldendes giefe And onseod eagum to wynne Dæt hi on heofon-rice hlutru dreamas

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Then shall be gathered on the right-hand side of Christ Himself the cleanly multitude, chosen for their virtues; in their life-days joyfully had they performed His word. Workers of wickedness shall be disposed before their Maker on the worser side; victory's true King shall bid the throng of sinful mortals wend unto His left; discovered, shall they there bewail and quake, afeard before the Lord; as foul as goats, an unpure folk, they may not hope for grace. When the spirits' doom shall be decreed 'fore God unto all generations as they wrought, three signs shall then be plainly visible at once upon the blessed, for they kept well their Lord's behest, both by their words and works. The first sign manifest shall be, to wit, that they shall shine with light before the folk, with bliss and brightness, throughout the homes on high; their former deeds shall shine upon them there, upon each of them, e'en brighter than the sun. Likewise a second sign shall be revealed, in glory shall they know their Sovran's grace, and they shall see their eyes' delight therein, that they, as saints, 'mid angels, are to own

Eadge mid englum agan motun-Donne bid pridde hu on þystra bealo hæt gesælige weorud gesih bæt fordone Sar browian synna to wite Weallendne lig and wyrma wlite Bitrum ceaflum byrnendra scole. Of bam him aweaxe wynsum geféa Donne hi bæt yfel geseo ore dreogan bæt hy burh miltse meotudes genæson. Dónne hi by geornor gode boncias Blædes and blissa be hy bu geseo8 bæt he hy generede from nid-cwale And eac forgeaf ece dreamas. Bid him hel bilocen heofon-rice agiefen. Swa sceal gewrixled bam be ær wel heoldon burh mod-lufan meotudes willan. Donne bið þam oþrum ungelice Willa geworden. Magon weana to fela Geseon on him selfum synne genoge Atol earfoda ær gedenra. bær him sorgendum sar ogclifeg broht beod-bealu on breo healfa. An is para bæt hy him yrmba to fela Grim helle fýr gearo to wite Andweard seoo on bam hi awo sculon

1250

1260

pure ecstasies in heaven's realm on high. The third shall be, that in the baleful gloom the blissful throng shall contemplate the damned suffering in penance for their sins sore pain, the surging flame and the bitter-biting jaws of luring serpents,—a shoal of burning things; thence winsome joy shall rise within their souls, beholding other men endure the ills that they escaped, through mercy of the Lord. Then the more eagerly shall they thank God for all their glory and delight, seeing that He both saved them from these grievous pangs, and granted unto them eternal joys; hell shall be locked for them, heaven's realm vouchsafed. This shall be their lot who erst kept well, through their souls' love, the will of the Creator.

But all unlike, forsooth, shall be the plight
of the others; they shall see there in themselves
too many woes, a multitude of sins,
direst affliction for their former deeds;
sorrowing there, sore pain shall cleave to them,
anguish and bale, rising from sources three.
The first shall be, that fore them they shall see,
all ready for their torment, hell's grim fire,—
too base an ignominy; outcast there,

1270

Wræc-winnende wærg ou dreogan. Donne is him oper earfebu swa some Scyldgum to sconde bæt hi bær scoma mæste Dreoga's fordone. On him dryhten gesih's Nales feara sum firen-bealu la olic And þæt æll-beorhte eac sceawia8 Heofon-engla here and hæleba bearn Ealle eor &-buend and atol deofol Mircne mægen-cræft mán-womma gehwone. Magon burh ba lic-homan leahtra firene Geseon on bam sawlum. Beo'd ba syngan flæsc 1280 Scandum burh-waden swa bæt scire glæs bæt mon ybæst mæg eall burh-wlitan. Donne bid bæt bridde bearfendum sorg Cwipende cearo pæt hy on pa clænan seo8 Hu hi fore gód-dædum glade blissia'd ba hy unsælge ær forhogdun To donne bonne him dagas læstun-And be hyra weorcum wepende sár bæt hi ær freolice fremedon unryht Geseo hi þa betran blæde scinan. 1290 Ne bið him hyra yrmðu an to wite Ac para operra ead to sorgum bæs be hy swa fægre gefean on fyrn-dagum And swa ænlice an-forletun

they shall endure damnation evermore. Likewise a second woe shall put to shame the guilty; they shall endure the greatest contumely, undone by sin; the Lord shall see in them loathsome transgressions, nowise a few, and the radiant throng, the heavenly angel-host, shall see the like, and eke the sons of men; all earth's inhabitants, and the fell devil, shall see their darksome craft and every stain; through their bodies they shall see upon their souls their shameful crimes; abjectly the sinful flesh shall be transparent, as it were clear glass, that men most easily may see all through. A third affliction shall the wretched know, yea, dire lament, when they behold the pure, how gladly they rejoice in the good deeds, that they, unhappy ones, despised to do erewhile, when still the days of life ran on; and weeping sore because of their own works because they wrought unrighteousness before, they shall behold their betters shine in glory. Not merely their own misery shall be their bale; the bliss of those others shall increase their grief, seeing how they in former days forsook delights so fair and so incomparable

burh leaslice lices wynne Earges flæsc-homan idelne lust. Dær hi ascamode scondum gedreahte Swicia's on swiman syn-byrbenne Firen-weorc berad on bæt ba folc seod. Wære him bon betre bæt hy bealo-dæde 1300 Ælces unryhtes ær gescomeden Fore anum men eargra weorca Godes bodan sægdon þæt hi to gyrne wiston Firen-dæda on him. Ne mæg burh bæt flæsc se scrift Geseon on bære sawle hwæber him mon sog be lyge Saga's on hine sylfne bonne he ba synne bigæs. Mæg mon swa þeah gelacnigan leahtra gehwylcne Yfel unclæne gif he hit anum gesegg And nænig bihelan mæg on þam heardan dæge Wom unbeted vær hit þa weorud geseov. 1310 Eala bær we nu magon wrabe firene Geseon on ussum sawlum synna wunde Mid lic-homan leahtra gehygdu Eagum unclæne in-geboncas. Ne bæt ænig mæg obrum gesecgan Mid hu micle elne æghwylc wille burh ealle list lifes tiligan Feores forhtlice for a á folian Syn-rust bwean and hine sylfne brean

for the body's vain and all-delusive joy, and for the idle lust of the vile flesh. There they abashed, o'erwhelmed with ignominy, shall wander giddily, bearing their evil deeds, the burden of their sins, whilst all folk gaze; 'twere better for them had they erst felt shame for each base deed and each transgression, for all their evil works, before one man, telling God's servant that too well they knew ill-deeds within them. The confessor cannot look through the flesh unto the soul, whether a man telleth truth or lie, when he his sins avoweth; nathless a wight can heal each noxious ill, each unclean sin, if he tell it but to one; and none may there conceal, on that stern day, guilt unamended; multitudes shall see it. Verily, we shall then, with bodily sight, behold the wounds of sin upon our souls, our base iniquities, our inmost thoughts of wickedness, our unclean cogitations. Not any man may tell it to another, with how great zeal, by every artifice, each mortal striveth to attain life's goal, anxious to protract existence forth, to wash sin's rust away, afflicting himself,

And þæt wom ærran wunde hælan Done lytlan fyrst þe her lifes sy Dæt he mæge fore eagum eorð-buendra Unscomiende eðles mid monnum Brucan bysmerleas þendan bu somod Lic and sawle lifgan mote.

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## V.

Usse hreper-cofan heortan eagum
Innan uncyste. We mid þam oðrum ne magun
Heafod-gimmum hyge-þonces ferð
Eagum þurh-wlitan ænge þinga
Hwæþer him yfel þe god under wunige
þæt he on þa grimman tid gode licie
þonne he ofer weoruda gehwylc wuldre scineð
Of his heah-setle hlutran lege
þær he fore englum and fore elþeodum
To þam eadgestum ærest mæðleð
And him swæslice sibbe gehateð
Heofona heah-cyning halgan reorde
Frefreð he fægre and him friþ beodeð
Hateð hy gesunde and gesenade
On eþel faran engla dreames

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to heal the blemish of some former wound, during the little span of life on earth, so that before the eyes of all the world, he may enjoy his home in the midst of men, blameless and unabashed, as long as here body and soul may both together dwell.

## V.

Now, with the mind's eye, it behoveth us, with wisdom, fain to pierce the bosom's case unto the sin within,—with our other eyes, the jewels of the head, we may no whit survey the hidden home of inmost thought, whether good or ill abide there in those depths, so that at that dread time God may be pleased, when, from His lofty throne, with flame all-pure, He shall shine in glory o'er the multitudes; and before angels and before all folks He shall speak first unto the happiest there, and lovingly shall promise them His grace; yea, with His holy voice, the Heaven's high King shall gently comfort them, and grant them peace, and He shall bid them then, all safe and blessed, fare to the home of angels' harmony,

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And bæs to widan feore willum neotan. Onfor nu mid freondum mines fæder rice Dæt eow wæs ær woruldum wynlice gearo Blæd mid blissum beorht e'les wlite Hwonne ge þa lif-welan mid þam leot[s]tum Swase swegl-dreamas geseon mosten-Ge þæs earnedon þa ge earme men Woruld-bearfende willum onfengun On mildum sefan. Donne hy him burh minne noman 1 350 Eaomode to eow arna bædun Donne ge hyra hulpon and him hleog gefon Hingrendum hlaf and hrægl nace dum And ba be on sare seoce lagun Æf[n]don únsofte adle gebundne To pam ge holdlice hyge stapeladon Mid modes myne. Eall ge bæt me dydon-Donne ge hy mid sibbum sohtun and hyra sefan trymedon

Forð on frofre Dæs ge fægre sceolon

Lean mid leofum lange brucan 1360

Onginneð þonne to þam yflum ungelice

Wordum mæðlan þe him bið on þa wynstran hond
Durh egsan þrea alwalda god.

Ne þurfon hi þonne to meotude miltse gewenan

Lifes ne lissa ac þær lean cumað

and joyously possess it evermore:-

'Receive ye now, 'mid friends, My Father's realm, the blissful glories and the beauteous home, dight winsomely for you, ere worlds were wrought,yours, when ye might behold, with the best beloved, life's true wealth, the sweet delights of heaven. This meed ye merited, when gladsomely, with gentle cheer, ye welcomed needy men, the wretched of the world; when in My name they humbly prayed you for compassion, then helped ye them, and gave them sheltering, bread to the hungry, garments to the naked, and those that lay sick and in sorry pain, suffering grievously, bound by disease, their spirits ye sustained in kindly wise, with loving hearts. All this ye did for Me, when ye in friendship sought them, and with comfort ve stayed their souls; wherefore ye shall in bliss

Iongtime enjoy reward with My beloved.'

Then will Almighty God, with other words,
with fearful threatening, begin to speak
unto the wicked, those upon His left.
They may not hope for pity from the Lord,
nor life nor grace; reward for words and deeds

Werum bi gewyrhtum worda and dæda
Reord-berendum sceolon þone ryhtan dóm
Ænne geæfnan egsan fulne.
Bið þær seo miccle milts âfyrred
Deod-buendum on þam dæge
Dæs ælmihtigan þonne he yrringa
On þæt fræte folc firene stæleð
Laþum wordum hateð hyra lifes riht
Andweard ywan þæt he him ær forgeaf
Syngum to sælum. Onginneð sylf cweðan
Swa he to anum sprece and hwæþre ealle mæneð
Firen-synnig folc frea ælmihtig.
Hwæt ic þec mon minum hondum

Ærest geworhte and be andgiet sealde

Mæg-wlite me gelicne geaf ic þe eac meahta sped
Welan ofer wíd-londa gehwylc nysses þu wean ænigne

Of lame ic pe leope gesette geaf ic & lifgendne gæst 1380 Arode pe ofer ealle gesceafte gedyde ic pæt pu onsyn

Dystra þæt þu þolian sceolde þu þæs þonc ne wissesþa ic & swa scienne gesceapen hæfde Wynlicne geworht and þe welan forgyfen þæt &u mostes wealdan worulde gesceaftum Đa ic þe on þa fægran foldan gesette

hæfdest.

shall come to all men there, creatures of speech, according to their works; they shall endure the only righteous, though an awful, doom.

On that day then the great compassion of the Omnipotent shall be afar from earth's inhabitants, when wrathfully, in angry words, He chargeth their misdeeds on impious folk, and biddeth them there present their life's account before Him, which erst He gave to them, base sinners, for their bliss. The Sovran Lord Himself shall speak as if He spake to one, and nathless shall He mean all sinning folk:—

'Lo, man! with Mine own hands I fashioned thee
in the beginning, and wisdom granted thee;
I formed thy limbs of clay; I gave thee living soul;
I honoured thee o'er all created things; I
wrought

thine aspect like to Mine; I gave thee might, wealth o'er each land; of woe thou knewest nought,

nought of the gloom to come; yet thankless thou.

When I had shapen thee thus beauteously,
had made thee comely, and had given thee power,
that thou mightst rule the creatures of the world,
when I had set thee in that fair domain,

To neotenne neorxna wonges Beorhtne blæd-welan bleom scinende 1390 Da bu lifes word læstan noldes Ac min bibod bræce be bines bonan worde Fæcnum feonde furbor hyrdes Scephendum sceapan bonne binum scyppende-Nu ic Sa ealdan race anforlæte Hu bu æt ærestan yfle gehogdes Firen-weorcum forlure bæt ic 8e to fremum sealde Da ic be goda swa fela forgiefen hæfde And be on bam eallum eades to lyt Mode buhte gif bu meahte sped 1400 Efen-micle gode agan ne moste-Da þu of þan gefean fremde wurde Feondum to willan feor aworpen Neorxna wonges wlite nyde sceoldes Agiefan geomor-mod gæsta ebel Earg and únrót eallum bidæled Dugepum and dreamum and þa bidrifen wurde On þas þeostran weoruld þær þu þolades siþþan Mægen-earfebu micle stunde Sår and swar gewin and sweartne dea8 1410 And æfter [h]ingonge hreosan sceoldes Hean in helle helpendra leas-

Da mec ongon hreowan bæt min hond-geweorc

the bright and blissful riches to enjoy of Paradise, resplendent with its hues, then wouldst thou not fulfil the word of Life, but, at the word of thy Bane, didst break My bidding; a treacherous foe, a mischievous destroyer. didst thou obey, rather than thy Creator. Now will I let that ancient story pass. how at the first thou didst so ill devise, and didst lose by sin the grace I granted thee; when I had given thee all these goodly things, nathless it seemed unto thy mind withal too little bliss, if thou mightst not possess fulness of power equally with God; then thou becamest, to thy foes' delight, an alien to that joy, cast out afar; perforce then hadst thou sadly to forego the charm of Paradise, the spirits' home, a craven wight and wretched, cut off from all its blessings and its mirths; then wast thou driven into this gloomy world, where thou hast suffered, from that time forth, so long, dire miseries, pain and heavy toil and swarthy death, doomed, after thy going hence, abased to fall down into hell, with none to lend thee help. Then did it rue Me that Mine handiwork

On feonda geweald feran sceolde

Mon-cynnes tuddor mán-cwealm seon

Sceolde uncuöne eard cunnian

Sare siþas þa ic sylf gestag

Maga in modor þeah wæs hyre mægden-had

Æghwæs onwalg. Wearð ic áná geboren

Folcum to frofre mec mon folmum biwond

1420

Biþeahte mid þearfan wædum and mec þa on þeostre
alegde

Biwundenne mid wonnum clapum hwæt ic þæt for worulde gebolade

Lytel puhte ic leoda bearnum læg ic on heardum stane Cild geong on crybbe mid þy ic þe wolde cwealm afyrran

Hat helle bealu þæt þu moste halig scinan Eadig on þam ecan life for on ic þæt earfeþe wónn-

## VI.

ÆS me for mode ac ic on magu-geoguðe
Yrmþu geæfnde arleas lic-sár
Þæt ic þurh þa wære þe gelic
And þu meahte minum weorþan

1430
Mæg-wlite gelic mane bidæled.
And fore monna lufan min þrowade

should pass into the power of the fiends,
that mankind's progeny should see dire pangs,
and should experience a loveless home,
sorry vicissitudes; then I descended
as a son unto his mother, yet was her maidenhood
wholly inviolate. I was born alone
for mankind's solace; with their hands they swathed Me,
wrapped Me in a poor man's weeds, laid Me in
darkness,

swaddled in dusky clothes. Lo! this for the world I suffered;

little seemed I to the sons of men; on the hard stone I lay, a young child in its crib, for that I would remove from thee

hell's torture and hot bale; that thou mightst shine as saint, blessed in the life eternal, therefore I bore that pain.

#### VI.

'Twas not for pride that in My youth I bore such wretchedness, such ignominious pain, but that I might thereby be like to thee, and that thou, freed from sin, mightst thus become like to that human form of Mine so fair; yea, for my love of men my head and face

Heafod hearm-slege hleor gebolade. Oft and-lata arleasra spatl Of mude onfeng man-fremmendra. Swylce hi me geblendon bittre tosomne Unswetne drync ecedes and geallan-Donne ic fore folce onfeng feonda geni8lan Fylgdon me mid firenum fæhbe ne rohtun And mid sweopum slogun. Ic bæt sar for de 1440 burh ea&medu eall gebolade Hosp and heard cwide. Da hi hwæsne beag Ymb min heafod heardne gebygdon bream bibrycton se wæs of bornum geworht. Da ic wæs ahongen on heanne beam Rode gefæstnad da hi ricene Mid spere of minre sidan swat ut-gotun Dreor to foldan. Dæt bu of deofles burh bæt Nyd-gewalde genered wurde Da ic womma leas wite bolade 1450 Yfel earfebu obbæt ic anne forlet Of minum lic-homan lifgendne gæst. Geseo nu ba feorh-dolg be gefremedun ær On minum folmum and on fotum swa some burh ba ic hongade hearde gefæstnad Meaht hér eac geseon orgete nu gen On minre sidan swatge wundeendured the suffering of their baleful strokes; oft on My visage spittle fell from mouths of impious workers of iniquity; they mingled, too, for Me full bitterly an unsweet drink of vinegar and gall; for mankind bore I then the wrath of foes; they followed Me with torments; reckless in hate, they struck Me with their scourges,—all that pain, their scorn and cruel gibes, in humbleness I bore for thee,—and round about My head a bitter-biting crown they bent anon, fiercely they pressed it on,—'twas wrought of thorns. Then was I hanged upon a lofty tree, and fastened to a rood; with a spear there from my side they poured out on to earth My blood and gore. That thou thereby shouldst be delivered from the devil's tyranny, all sinless suffered I this punishment, this sore affliction, till from my body the living spirit sent I forth alone. See now the fatal wounds they made of yore upon My palms and eke upon My feet, by which I hung full firmly fastened there; here mayest thou see, too, manifest e'en yet, the gory wound, the gash upon My side.

Hu bær wæs únefen racu unc gemæne. Ic onfeng bin sár bæt bu moste gesælig Mines ebel-rices eadig neotan 1460 And be mine deade deore gebohte bæt longe lif bæt bu on leohte sibban Wlitig womma leas wunian mostes-Læg min flæsc-homa in foldan bigrafen Nibre gehyded se de nængum scód In byrgenne bæt bu meahte beorhte uppe On roderum wesan rice mid englum. Forhwon forlete bú líf bæt scyne Dæt ic be for lufan mid mine lic-homan Heanum to helpe hold gecypte. 1470 Wurde bu bæs gewitleas bæt bu waldende binre alysnesse bonc ne wisses. Ne ascige ic nú owiht bi þam bitran Deade minum be ic adreag fore be-Ac forgield me bin líf bæs be ic iú be mín burh woruld-wite weor'd gesealde. Dæs lifes ic manige þe þu mid leahtrum hafast Ofslegen synlice sylfum to sconde. Forhwan þu þæt sele-gescót þæt ic me swæs on þe Gehalgode hús to wynne 1480 burh firen-lustas fule synne Unsyfre bismite sylfes willum.

How unequal was the reckoning 'twixt us two! . I there received thy pain that thou in bliss mightst happily enjoy My native realm; and dearly by My death I bought for thee long life, that thou mightst thenceforth evermore dwell in the light, beauteous, void of sin. My body's flesh, the which had harmed no man, lay buried in the earth, hidden deep beneath, down in its sepulchre, that thou mightst shine mighty 'mid angels, in the skies above. Wherefore didst thou forsake the beauteous life, which graciously I bought for thee, in love, with Mine own body, to help thee in thy plight? So witless wast thou, that thou didst not show thanks to thy Lord for thy redemption. Nought claim I now for that sore death of Mine, so bitter, which I there endured for thee, but render Me thy life, for which, in martyrdom, I gave thee formerly Mine own as price. I claim of thee the life thou hast so sinfully destroyed to thine own shame, with base transgression.

Why hast thou wittingly with filth defiled, through wicked lust and through foul sinfulness, the tabernacle I sanctified in thee, to be the cherished home of My delight?

Ge þu þone lic-homan þe ic alysde me
Feondum of fæðme and þa him firene forbead
Scyld-wyrcende scondum gewemdest.
Forhwon áhenge þu mec hefgor on þinra honda rode
Þonne íu hongade. Hwæt me þeos heardra þynceð.
Nu is swærra mid mec þinra synna rod
Þe ic unwillum on beom gefæstnad
Þonne seo oþer wæs þe ic ær gestag

1490
Willum minum þa mec þin weá swiþast
Æt heortan gehreaw þa ic þec from helle áteah
Þær þu hit wolde sylfa siþþan gehealdan.
Ic wæs on worulde weadla þæt ðu wurde welig in

Earm ic wæs on e'le pinum pæt pu wurde eadig on minum.

heofonum

Da du pæs ealles ænigne ponc
Dinum nergende nysses on mode.
Bibead ic eow pæt ge bropor mine
In woruld-rice wel aretten
Of pam æhtum pe ic eow on eordan geaf
I500
Earmra hulpen earge ge pæt læstun.
Dearfum forwyrndon pæt hi under eowrum pæce mosten
In-gebugan and him æghwæs oftugon
Durh heardne hyge hrægles nacedum
Moses mete-leasum peah hy him purh minne noman

Yea, thou didst shamefully pollute with guilt
that body which I ransomed for Myself
from the grasp of foes, and then forbade it sin.
Why hast thou hanged Me worse on thy hands' cross
than when of old I hung? Methinks this harder;
thy sins' cross is now heavier for Me,
on which I am bound fast, unwillingly,
than was that other which I erst ascended,
with Mine own will, whenas thy misery
rued Me so much at heart, when I drew thee from hell,
where thou thyself wouldst afterwards abide.
I in the world was poor, that thou in heaven mightst be

I in the world was poor, that thou in heaven mightst be rich,

wretched was I in thy world, that thou in Mine mightst blissful be.

But for all this thou knewest not in thy heart
the gratitude due to thy Saviour.

I bade that ye should cherish tenderly
My brethren throughout all the world's domain;
with the wealth which I had granted you on earth
that ye should help the poor; ill have ye done so;
ye forbade the poor to enter 'neath your roof,
and ye withheld from them full everything,
in your hard hearts,—raiment from the naked,
food from the foodless; though weary and infirm,

Werge wonhale wætan bædan
Drynces gedreahte duguþa lease
Durste geþegede ge him þriste oftugon.
Sarge ge ne sohton ne him swæslic word
Frofre gespræcon þæt hy þy freoran hyge

1510
Mode gefengen. Eall ge þæt me dydan
To hynþum heofon-cyninge. Þæs ge sceolon hearde
adreogan

Wite to widan ealdre wræc mid deoflum gebolian. Donne bær ofer ealle egeslicne cwide Sylf sigora weard sares fulne Ofer bæt fæge folc forð forlæteð. Cwid to bara synfulra sawla feban-Fara's nu awyrgde willum biscyrede. Engla dreames on ece fir bæt wæs satane and his gesibum mid 1520 Deofle gegearwad and bære deorcan scole Hat and heoro-grim on bæt ge hreosan sceolan-Ne magon hi bonne gehynan heofon-cyninges bibod Rædum birofene sceolon rabe feallan On grimne grund þa ær wiþ gode wunnon-Bio bonne rices weard repe and meahtig Yrre and egesful. Andweard ne mæg On bissum fold-wege feond gebidan.

void of all sustenance, yearning for drink,
yea, parched with thirst, for water they entreated
in My name, yet harshly ye denied it them.
The sick ye sought not, nor spake a kindly word
of comfort unto them, that their hearts might win
a cheerful spirit. All this ye did in scorn
of Me, heaven's King; wherefore ye shall
endure

torment for evermore, exile 'mid devils.'

Then over all of them, over that fated folk, the Lord of triumph shall Himself send forth a dreadful edict, full of tribulation, and to that host of sinful souls shall say:—
'Go now accursed, wilfully cut off from angels' joy, into eternal fire, which, hot and fiercely grim, was dight of yore for the devil, Satan, and his comrades eke, and all that swarthy shoal; therein shall ye fall.'

They may not then deride, bereft of rede,
the King's command; they who erst warred 'gainst God
shall quickly fall into the grim abyss.
The Lord of empire shall be stern and mighty,
angry and fearful; upon this track of earth
no foe may then abide before His face.

Ι

WAPED sige-mece mid pære swi[8]ran hond bæt on bæt deope dæl deofol gefealla8 In sweartne leg synfulra here Under foldan sceat fæge gæstas On wrabra wic womfulra scolu Werge to forwyrde on wite-hus Dead-sele deofles. Nales dryhtnes gemynd Sibban geseca's synne ne aspringa's þær hi leahtrum få lege gebundne Swylt prowiad bid him syn-wracu Andweard undyrne bæt is ece cwealm. Ne mæg þæt hate dæl of heolog-cynne 1540 In sin-nehte synne forbærnan To widan feore wom of pære sawle-Ac þær se deopa seað dreorge fedeð Grundleas giemed gæsta on beostre Æled hy mid by ealdan lige and mid by egsan forste Wrapum wyrmum and mid wita fela Frecnum feorh-gomum folcum scende %þæt we magon eahtan and on án cwegan Sode secgan bæt se sawle weard Lifes wisdóm forloren hæbbe 1550 Se be nú ne gieme hwæber his gæst sie

130

He shall sweep the victor-sword with His right hand, that the devils shall fall down the deep abyss into swart flame; the bands of sinful ones into earth's realm beneath; the fated spirits into the camp of foes; the guilty shoal, damned to perdition, into the prison-house, the devil's death-hall. Ne'er shall they seek again remembrance of the Lord, nor'scape their sins, but, crime-stained, they shall there, bewrapt with flame endure destruction; vengeance for their sins shall they see revealed; that is eternal death; through all the livelong night the fiery gulf may ne'er avail to purge their sins away from that hell-race, the stain from off their soul. But the deep pit feedeth still the weary ones; bottomless it keepeth the spirits in its gloom; with its old flame it burneth them; and with terrors chill, with hateful serpents, and with torments many, with sharp and deadly jaws, it scatheth folk. Wherefore we may believe and ave declare, soothly affirm, that that soul's guardian hath wholly lost the wisdom of this life. who heedeth not now whether his spirit shall be

Earm be eadig bær he ece sceal Æfter hin-gonge hamfæst wesan-Ne bisorga's he synne to fremman Wonhydig mon ne he wihte hafa's Hreowe on mode bæt him halig gæst Losige burh leahtras on bas lænan tid. Donne man-sceasa fore meotude forht Deorc on bam dome standed and deade fah Wommum awyrged bid se wær-loga Fyres afylled feores unwyrde Egsan gebread andweard gode. Won and wliteleas hafa's werges bleo Facen-tacen feores. Donne firena bearn Tearum geota's bonne bæs tid ne bib Synne cwibad ac hy to sid dod Gæstum helpe Sonne þæs giman nele Weoruda waldend hu þa wom-sceaban Hyra eald-gestreon on þa openan tíd Sare greten. Ne bib bæt sorga tíd Leodum alyfed þæt þær læcedóm Findan mote se be nu his feore nyle Hælo strynan benden her leofa'd. Ne bið þær ængum godum gnorn ætywed Ne nængum yflum wel ac þær æghwæþer Anfealde gewyrht andweard wige's.

1560

1570

wretched or happy, where, after its going hence, it shall be resident eternally. He dreadeth nowise sin to perpetrate, thoughtless man! nor hath he aught of ruth within his heart, e'en though his holy spirit perish, in this fading time, through guilt. When the evil-doer, afeared before his Maker, at the judgment standeth, black and foul with death, accursed with crime, then shall the treacherous wight of life unworthy, be fulfilled of fire, and overwhelmed with terror before God; sightless and swart, he shall have a felon's hue, the token of a life of perfidy. The sons of men shall then shed tears and shall bewail their sins, when time availeth not; too late shall they devise help for their spirits, when the Lord of hosts will not give heed how base transgressors there, so sorely, at that all-disclosing time, deplore what erst they cherished; that time of sorrowing will not avail that he who will not now gain life's salvation, while he liveth here, may there find out the healing remedy. No grief to any good man shall there be known, nor joy to any evil; but there each one shall bear before God's sight his own desert.

Fordon sceal onettan se be ágan wile Lif æt meotude benden him leoht and gæst Somod-fæst seon. He his sawle wlite Georne bigonge on godes willan And bær weorde worda and dæda beawa and gebonca benden him beos woruld Sceadum scribende scinan mote bæt he ne forleose on bas lænan tid His dreames blæd and his dagena rim And his weorces wlite and wuldres lean Dætte heofones cyning on ba halgan tid Soofæst syled to sigor-leanum Dam be him on gæstum georne hyra'd. Donne heofon and hel hæleba bearnum Fira feorum fylde weorbed Grundas swelgad godes andsacan Lacende leg la wende men Dread beod-sceaban and no bonan lætad On gefean faran to feorh-nere. Ac se bryne binde bid-fæstne here Feod firena bearn. Frecne me binced bæt bas gæst-berend giman nellað Men on mode bonne mán hwæt Him se waldend to wrace gesette Labum leodum. Donne lif and dea8

1580

1590

1600

Lo, eager must he be, while light and life hold fast together, who wisheth to possess life from his Maker; let him foster zealously the beauty of his soul, after God's will; let him be wary in his words and works, his habits and his thoughts, while this world here, speeding with mystic shadows, may still shine for him, so that he lose not in this fading time the blossom of his joy, the number of his days, the beauty of his work, and glory's recompense, which heaven's righteous King dispenseth then, at that holy time, as the rewards of victory, to those who fain, with all their soul, obey Him. All heaven and hell shall then become fulfilled with the sons of men, with the souls of mortal men; the abyss shall gorge the adversaries of God; the flickering flame shall harass erring folk, workers of injury, and shall not let them thence depart in joy unto security; the fire shall keep that host immovable; it shall vex mankind. Foolhardy me thinketh it, that men, creatures with soul endowed, will not be heedful in their minds, since that their Sovran may put, in vengeance, upon hateful folk any evil whatsoe'er. When life and death

Sawlum swelgad bid susla hús Open and o'deawed a'd-logum ongean Dæt sceolon fyllan firen-georne men Sweartum sawlum. Donne synna wracu Scyldigra scolu ascyred weorbed Heane from halgum on hearm-cwale. Dær sceolan beofas and beod-sceaban Lease and forlegene lifes ne wenan And mân-sworan mo[r]bor-lean seon Heard and heoro-grim bonne hel nimed Wærleasra weorud and hi waldend giefe's Feondum in forwyrd fa browia's Ealdor-bealu egeslic earm bid se be wile Firenum gewyrcan bæt he fáh scyle From his scyppende ascyred weordan Æt dóm-dæge to deage niber Under helle cinn in bæt hate fyr Under liges locan bær hy leomu ræcað To bindenne and to bærnenne And to swingenne synna to wite-Donne halig gæst helle biluced Morber-husa mæst burh meaht godes Fyres fulle and feonda here Cyninges worde. Se bib cwealma mæst Deofla and monna. Dæt is dreamleas hús.

1610

1620

shall gain their share of souls, the house of torment shall be full manifest to perjurers' sight; sin-loving men, with swarthy souls, shall fill it. Then, in retribution for their sins, the shoal of guilty ones shall be disparted, the base from the holy, unto pernicious death; there thieves, and such as wrought cruel injury, liars and adulterers, shall have no hope of life; and the forsworn shall see their crimes' reward, grievous and fiercely grim; then hell shall take the host of faithless ones; the Lord shall give them in perdition to the fiends; sinners shall endure dire racking agony; wretched shall he be who fain doth wickedly; as a guilty wretch upon that judgment-day shall he be severed from his Creator, doomed to the death below, among hell's race, adown in the hot fire, 'neath the barriers of flame; there shall men stretch their limbs, to be bound and to be burnt anon, and to be scourged, in punishment for sin.

Then the Holy Spirit, through the might of God, at the King's command, shall lock the gates of hell, the worst of torture-houses, full of fire, with the host of fiends therein; for devils and for men this torment shall be direst. That is a joyless home;

Đær ænig ne mæg ower losian Caldan clommum hy bræcon cyninges word Beorht boca bibod forbon hy abidan sceolon In sin-nehte sar ende-leas Firen-dædum få for's prowian Da be her [for-]hogdun heofon-rices brym. honne ba gecorenan fore crist berag Beorhte frætwe hyra blæd leofað Æt dom-dæge agan dream mid gode Libes lifes bæs be alyfed bib Haligra gehwam on heofon-rice. Dæt is se ebel be no geendad weorbed Ac bær symle for synna lease Dream weardia'd dryhten lofia'd Leofne lifes weard leohte biwundne Sibbum biswedede sorgum biwerede Dreamum gedyrde dryhtne gelyfde Awa to ealdre engla gemanan Bruca's mid blisse beorhte mid lisse Freoga's folces weard fæder ealra Geweald hafa's and healde's haligra weorud. Đær is engla song eadigra blis bær is seo dyre dryhtnes onsien Eallum þam gesælgum sunnan leohtra Dær is leofra lufu líf butan ende-deade

1630

1640

1650

no one may evermore escape from thence, from those cold bonds; they broke their King's command, the Scriptures' bright behests; they must abide the livelong night, and, stained with wicked deeds, thenceforth must they endure pain without end, who here despised the bliss of heaven's realm.

Then shall the chosen carry before Christ
resplendent treasures; their happiness shall live;
with God, at doomsday, shall they have the joy
of life serene, for it shall be vouchsafed
to every holy man in heaven's realm.
That is the home that never shall know end,
but there the sinless henceforth evermore
shall hold their joyous mirth, and praise the Lord,
their life's dear Guardian; there, begirt with light,
bewrapt in peace, shielded from sorrowing,
glorified by joy, endeared unto the Lord,
radiant with grace, shall they for evermore
enjoy in bliss the angels' fellowship,
and cherish mankind's Guardian, Father of all,
Sovran Preserver of the holy hosts.

There is angels' song; the bliss of the happy; there is the gracious presence of the Lord, brighter than the sun, for all the blessed ones; there is the love of the beloved; life without death's end; Glæd gumena weorud gioguð butan ylde
Heofon-duguða þrym hælu butan sare
Ryht-fremmendum ræst butan gewinne
Dóm-eadigra dæg butan þeostrum
Beorht blædes full blis butan sorgum
Frið freondum bitweon forð butan æfestum
Gesælgum on swegle sib butan niþe
Halgum on gemonge. Nis þær hungor ne þurst
Slæp ne swår leger ne sunnan bryne

1660
Ne cyle ne cearo ac þær cyninges giefe
Awo brucað eadigra gedryht
Weoruda wlite-scynast wuldres mid dryhten.



a gladsome host of men; youth without age;
the glory of the heavenly chivalry; health without pain
for righteous workers; and for souls sublime
rest without toil; there is day without dark gloom,
ever gloriously bright; bliss without bale;
friendship 'twixt friends for ever without feud;
peace without enmity for the blest in heaven,
in the communion of saints. Hunger is not there nor thirst,
sleep, nor grievous sickness; nor sun's heat,
nor cold, nor care; but there that blissful band,
the fairest of all hosts, shall aye enjoy
their Sovran's grace, and glory with their King.





# APPENDIX

### I. SAINT GUTHLAC.

[? Christ, Il. 1664-1692.]

E BIÐ GEFEANA FÆGRAST þonne hy æt frymde gemetað engel and seo eadge sawl ofgiefeþ hio þas eorþan wynne

forlæteð þas lænan dreamas and hio wiþ ham lice gedæleð.

Donne cwið se engel hafað yldran hád greteð gæst oþerne abeodeð him godes ærende. Nu þu most feran þider þu fundadest longe and gelome. Ic þec lædan scealwegas þe sindon weþe and wuldres leoht torht ontyned. Eart nu tid-fara to þam halgan hám þær næfre hreow cymeð eder-gong fore yrmþum ac þær biþ engla dream sib and gesælignes and sawla ræst and þær á to feore gefeon motun dryman mid dryhten þa þe his domas heræfnað on eorþan. He him ece lean healdeð on heofonum þær se hyhsta ealra

IO

#### I. SAINT GUTHLAC.

That shall be the fairest of joys, when they at first shall meet,

the angel and the happy soul, when it resigneth the joys of earth, forsaketh these frail delights, and from the body shall depart.

Then shall the angel speak, (his the more exalted state,)
one spirit shall greet the other, and announce to it God's errand:—

'Now thou mayst depart whither thou wast yearning longtime and often; I am to lead thee; the ways shall be pleasant for thee, and the glory's bright light shall be revealed; thou art now a traveller unto that holy home where sorrow never cometh, the refuge from affliction; but there is angels' harmony, goodwill and happiness and souls' repose; and there for evermore may they rejoice and revel with the Lord, who here, on earth, fulfil his judgments; He holdeth for them, in heaven, eternal recompense; over the cities there,

K

yn i nga cyning ceastrum wealdeð.

Dæt sind þa getimbru þe no tydriað
ne þam fore yrmþum þe þær in-wuniað
lif aspringeð ac him bið lenge hu sel
geoguþe brucað and godes miltsa.

Dider soðfæstra sawla motun
cuman æfter cwealme þa þe ær cristes æ
lærað and læstað and his lof rærað.
oferwinnað þa awyrgdan gæstas bigytað him wuldres
ræste

30

hwider sceal þæs monnes mod astigan ær oþþe æfter þonne he his ænne her gæst bigonge þæt se gode mote womma clæne in geweald cuman. the most high, the King of kings, holdeth sway.

These are the structures which do not decay,

nor, through misery, shall life fail those

who dwell therein, but the longer the better it shall be for

them;

youth shall they enjoy and the grace of God.

Thither, after death, the souls of righteous men
may come, who erewhile teach and do
the law of Christ and raise on high His praise;
they shall o'ercome the cursed sprites and gain that glorious
rest,

whither, sooner or later, the spirit of each man shall rise, whenas he cherisheth his one soul here, that it may come to God's dominion, clean of blemishes.'

#### II. HOMILIA IN ASCENSIONE DOMINI.

(Cp. passus secundus.)

vestes æ indicia.

. 9.

(§ 9.) Hoc autem nobis primum quærendum est, quidnam fit quod nato Domino apparuerunt Angeli, et tamen non leguntur in albis vestibus apparuisse: ascendente autem Domino missi Angeli in albis leguntur vestibus apparuisse. Sic etenim scriptum est: Videntibus illis elevatus est, et nubes suscepit eum ab oculis Cumque intuerentur in cœlum euntem illum, ecce duo viri steterunt juxta illos in vestibus albis. In albis autem vestibus gaudium et solemnitas mentis ostenditur. Ouid est ergo quod nato Domino, non in albis vestibus; ascendente autem Domino, in albis vestibus Angeli apparent: nisi quod tunc magna solemnitas Angelis facta est, cum cœlum Deus homo penetravit? Ouia nascente Domino videbatur divinitas humiliata: ascendente vero Domino, est humanitas exaltata. Albæ etenim vestes exaltationi magis congruunt quam humiliationi. In assumtione ergo ejus Angeli in albis vestibus videri debuerunt: quia qui in nativitate sua apparuit Deus humilis, in Ascensione sua ostensus est homo sublimis.

scensione ti quid iamus.

s. iii. 19.

(§ 10.) Sed hoc nobis magnopere, fratres carissimi, in hac solemnitate pensandum est: quia deletum est hodierna die chirographum damnationis nostræ, mutata est sententia corruptionis nostræ. Illa enim natura cui dictum est: Terra es, et in terram ibis, hodie in cœlum ivit. Pro hac ipsa namque carnis nostræ sublevatione per figuram beatus Job Dominum avem vocat. Quia enim Ascensionis ejus mysterium Judæam non intelligere conspexit, de infidelitate ejus sententiam protulit, dicens: Semitam ignoravit avis. Avis enim recte appelatus est

xviii. 7.

Dominus; quia corpus carneum ad æthera libravit. Cujus avis semitam ignoravit quisquis eum ad cœlum ascendisse non credidit. De hac solemnitate per Psalmistam dicitur: Elevata Psal. v. est magnificentia tua super cælos. De hac rursus ait: Ascendit Psal. x Deus in jubilatione, et Dominus in voce tubæ. De hac iterum dicit: Ascendens in altum, captivam duxit captivitatem, dedit dona Psal, b hominibus. Ascendens quippe in altum, captivam duxit captivitatem: quia corruptionem nostram virtute suæ incorruptionis absorbuit. Dedit vero dona hominibus; quia misso desuper Spiritu, alii sermonem sapientiæ, alii sermonem scientiæ, alii i Cor. gratiam virtutum, alii gratiam curationum, alii genera linguarum, alii interpretationem tribuit sermonum. Dedit ergo dona hominibus. De hac Ascensionis ejus gloria etiam Habacuc ait: Elevatus est sol, luna stetit in ordine suo. Quis enim solis nomine Habac. nisi Dominus, et quæ lunæ nomine nisi ecclesia designatur? Ouousque enim Dominus ascendit ad cælos, sancta ejus Ecclesia adversa mundi omnimodo formidavit: at postquam ejus Ascensione roborata est, aperte prædicavit, quod occulte credidit. Elevatus est ergo sol, et luna stetit in ordine suo: quia cum Dominus cœlum petiit, sancta ejus Ecclesia in auctoritate prædicationis excrevit. Hinc ejusdem Ecclesiæ voce per Salomonem dicitur: Ecce iste venit saliens in montibus, et tran- Cant. ii siliens colles. Consideravit namque tantorum operum culmina, et ait: Ecce iste venit saliens in montibus. Veniendo quippe ad redemtionem nostram, quosdam, ut ita dixerim, saltus dedit. Vultis, fratres carissimi, ipsos ejus saltus agnoscere? De cœlo venit in uterum, de utero venit in præsepe, de præsepe venit in crucem, de cruce venit in sepulcrum, de sepulcro rediit in cœlum. Ecce ut nos post se currere faceret, quosdam pro nobis

xviii. 6.

i. 3.

saltus manifestata per carnem veritas dedit: quia exultavit ut gigas ad currendam viam suam, ut nos ei diceremus ex corde: Trahe nos post te, curremus in odorem unguentorum tuorum.

num dentem in n sequi emus.

(§ 11.) Unde, fratres carissimi, oportet ut illuc sequamur corde, ubi eum corpore ascendisse credimus. Desideria terrena fugiamus, nihil nos jam delectet in infimis, qui patrem habemus in cœlis. Et hoc nobis est magnopere perpendendum: quia is qui placidus ascendit, terribilis redibit : et quidquid nobis cum mansuetudine præcepit, hoc a nobis cum districtione exiget. Nemo ergo indulta pœnitentiæ tempora parvipendat: nemo curam sui, dum valet, agere negligat : quia Redemtor noster tanto tunc in judicium districtior veniet, quanto nobis ante judicium magnam patientiam prærogavit. Hæc itaque vobiscum, fratres, agite: hæc in mente sedula cogitatione versate. Ouamvis adhuc rerum perturbationibus animus fluctuet: jam tamen spei vestræ anchoram in æternam patriam figite, intentionem mentis in vera luce solidate. Ecce ad cœlum ascendisse Dominum audivimus. Hoc ergo servemus in meditatione, quod credimus. Et si adhuc hic tenemur infirmitate corporis, sequamur tamen eum passibus amoris. Non autem deserit desiderium nostrum ipse qui dedit, Jesus Christus Dominus noster, qui vivit et regnat cum Deo Patre in unitate Spiritus Sancti Deus, per omnia secula seculorum. Amen.

> [Sancti Gregorii Magni xl Homiliarum in Evangelia Lib. 11., Homil. xxix.]

## III. HYMNUS DE DIE IUDICII.

(Cf. Passus Tertius.)

Apparebit repentina dies magna domini, Fur obscura velut nocte improvisos occupans.

Brevis totus tum parebit prisci luxus saeculi, Totum simul cum clarebit praeterisse saeculum.

Clangor tubae per quaternas terrae plagas concinens, Vivos una mortuosque Christo ciet obviam.

De coelesti iudex arce, maiestate fulgidus Claris angelorum choris comitatus aderit:

Erubescet orbis lunae, sol et obscurabitur, Stellae cadent pallescentes, mundi tremet ambitus

Flamma, ignis anteibit iusti vultum iudicis, Coelos, terras et profundi fluctus ponti decorans.

Gloriosus in sublimi rex sedebit solio, Angelorum tremebunda circumstabunt agmina.

Huius omnes ad electi colligentur dexteram, Pravi pavent a sinistris hoedi velut foetidi:

Ite, dixit rex ad dextros, regnum coeli sumite, Pater vobis quod paravit ante omne saeculum;

**K**aritate qui fraterna me iuvistis pauperem, Karitatis nunc mercedem reportate divites. Laeti dicent: quando, Christe, pauperem te vidimus, Te, rex magne, vel egentem miserati iuvimus:

Magnus illis dicet iudex: cum iuvistis pauperes, Panem, domum, vestem dantes, me iuvistis humiles.

Nec tardabit et sinistris loqui iustus arbiter: In gehennae maledicti flammas hinc discedite;

Obsecrantem me audire despexistis mendicum, Nudo vestem non dedistis, neglexistis languidum.

Peccatores dicent: Christe, quando te vel pauperem, Te, rex magne, vel infirmum contemnentes sprevimus.

Quibus contra iudex altus: mendicanti quamdiu Opem ferre despexistis, me sprevistis improbi.

Retro ruent tum iniusti ignes in perpetuos, Vermis quorum non morietur, flamma nec restinguitur,

Satan atro cum ministris quo tenetur carcere, Fletus ubi mugitusque, strident omnes dentibus.

Tunc fideles ad coelestem sustollentur patriam, Choros inter angelorum regni petent gaudia,

Urbis summae Hirusalem introibunt gloriam Vera lucis atque pacis in qua fulget visio.

Xрм. regem iam paterna claritate splendidum Ubi celsa beatorum contemplantur agminaYdri fraudes ergo cave, infirmentes subleva, Aurum temne, fuge luxus si vis astra petere.

Zona clara castitatis lumbos nunc praecingere, In occursum magni regis fer ardentes lampades.

#### IV. HOMILIA IN DIE EPIPHANIÆ.

(Cf. ll. 1126—1190.)

(§ 2.) Omnia quippe elementa auctorem suum venisse testata sunt. Ut enim de eis quiddam usu humano loquar: Deum hunc cæli esse cognoverunt, quia sub plantis ejus se calcabile præbuit. Terra cognovit, quia eo moriente contremuit. Sol cognovit, quia lucis suæ radios abscondit. Saxa et parietes cognoverunt, quia tempore mortis ejus scissa sunt. Infernus agnovit, quia hos quos tenebat mortuos, reddidit. Et tamen hunc, quem Dominum omnia insensiblia elementa senserunt, adhuc infidelium Judæorum corda Deum esse minime cognoscunt, et duriora saxis, scindi, ad pænitendum nolunt: eumque confiteri abnegant, quem elementa, ut diximus, aut signis aut scissionibus Deum clamabant.—(In Evang. Lib. 1. Homilia x.)



# CRITICAL NOTES



#### CRITICAL NOTES.

#### PART I.

1. It must be borne in mind that the 'Christ' is a fragment; the beginning of the poem is lost; of the missing part a single word still remains, viz., cyninge (i.e. 'to the king'); this is the first word in the Exeter MS.; I have purposely omitted it, so as to give the appearance of completeness to the poem, but there is no authority for the capital letters. The first words of the MS. run as follows:—

cyninge . Su eart se weall stan, etc.

1-4. cf. Matthew xxi. 42; Ephes. ii. 20-22; iv. 15, etc.

3. heafod, MS. heafoo.

6. b[yri]g, the g is just visible in the MS.; after b there is what I take to be the upper part of a curved y still traceable, resembling in shape an o (certainly not u); the letters ri are conjectural.

eagna, originally -nan; the erased n is still visible.

9. forlæt, MS. forlet.

11. cræftga, MS. cræstga.

12-14. cp. Amos ix. 11; Acts xv. 16.

13. hra can hardly be read, owing to the action of some liquid, which has almost obliterated a number of words on this and the next page of the MS.

15. cp. Luke i. 71.

17. pu reccend, MS. pa.

19. eadga, after ga, which comes at the end of the line in the MS., a small piece of parchment has been cut out; one letter at

most could have been written on it; I am inclined to think that eadga is what the poet wrote; Grein reads—

'eadga'd us siges, o'drum forwyrne'd, wlitigan wilsi'des . . .'

- 20. wilstpes, the last two letters can scarcely be read, the whole word is barely visible.
- 22. [Nu gemærsi]giað, five or six letters are obliterated before -giað; the reading in the text is purely conjectural; Gr. suggests [modgeomre halsi]giað, but the space in the MS. renders the reading impossible.
- 23. hete . . . ceose, two or three letters are obliterated before ceose; the first of the missing letters was probably h, judging by the alliterative requirements of the line; her (i.e. 'here,' or 'now') should, perhaps, be supplied. Gr., ignoring the fact that the want of an alliterative word in the second half of the line is due to the obliteration of letters before ceose, suggested héose for ceose, formulating an A. S. héosan, 'festinare'; later (Germania, 1865), he withdrew this suggestion in favour of [heo] fe (i.e. 'with lamentation').

I cannot detect, as Schipper seems to have been able to do in 1870, (v. Germania, 1874,) any trace of the reading to hofe before ceose; he adds, 'das MS. ist hier jedoch schwer leserlich.'

- 25. wil-sið, l-s almost obliterated in MS. but ið quite legible; Grein's suggestion wyrnde, (Germania, 1865,) is therefore untenable; it would be best, perhaps, to take hwonne as directly dependent on sorgende, 'yearning for the time when.'
  - 29. pe he to wuldre forlet, 'whom he hath admitted to glory.'
  - 30. we, MS. pe. 32. se pe, hardly legible in MS.
  - 41. geond-spreot, so MS.; Gr. geondspreat.
- 46. ryne gemiclaö, lit. 'enlargeth the course,' i.e. 'hasteneth the progress.'
  48. ho[r]scne, MS. hoscne.
- 68. geneode, so MS.; Gr. genedde (i.e. pp. of genedan); but the MS. reading is obviously correct; genedan = 'to venture,' 'to strive.' Thorpe was similarly troubled by the line, and suggested that a leaf was wanting after nearo.
  - 69. hu, so MS.; Gr. nu.
  - 76. mod, so MS.; Gr. emends to môt; but mod was often used 158

in A.S. with special reference to human passions and desires, and might well be rendered by 'desire' in this passage.

90. solimæ, MS. solimę.

92. mund minne, so MS.; Th. inne.

mund; cp. Icel. mundr, 'the money paid by the bridegroom to the father of the bride,' also 'the bridegroom's gift to the bride'; this is seemingly the only recorded instance of the word in A. S. literature, here evidently used metaphorically. It must be carefully distinguished from mund, 'hand,' 'protection,' which is feminine, though ultimately the words may be connected.

97. wærgða, so MS.; Gr. wærgðu.

some bright star is evidently meant, probably the same as Orvandels-tá, 'Orwendel's toe,' mentioned in the Edda. Thor carried Orwendel from Jotunheim in a basket on his back; Orwendel's toe stuck out of the basket, and got frozen; Thor broke it off, and flung it at the sky, and made a star of it, which is called Orvandels-tá; (v. Grimm's Deutsche Myth). That the story of Orwendel was Christianised in mediæval times is attested by the German story of Orendel in the Heldenbuch, where the hero wins 'the seamless coat' of his master. 'Earendel' does not occur elsewhere in A. S. poetry as a poetical designation of Christ; the word is interpreted in the Epinal glossary by 'jubar.'

The spelling in the Erfurt Gloss 'oerendil' is noteworthy. It seems probable that 'Earendel'=Orion,' the constellation brightest at winter-time, and Örvandels-tá'='Rigel,' the chief star of the constellation.

Cp. the opening lines of Paradise Lost, Book iii. :-

'Hail, holy light, offspring of Heaven first-born! Or of the Eternal co-eternal beam,' etc.

Cf. John i. 4, 9.

107. inlihtes, so MS.; Gr. inlihtest.

112. byldo, corrected in MS. from hyldo.

117. sceadu, corrected in MS. from sceadu.

118. cf. John i. 1-5, 14.

127. bi gewyrhtum, 'accordingly to his deeds,' i.e. 'deservedly.'

132. eft, MS. est.

142. Read 'pætte sunu meotudes sylfa wolde.'

152. anum . . . ofer-pearfum, about five letters obliterated;

Gr. anum oferpearfum, ignoring the missing word.

153. Hæftas hyge-geomre hider [gesece Ne læt] pe behindan ponne pu heonan cyrre. About ten letters are obliterated after hider; the bracketed words are purely conjectural; Gr. 'hider [gesohtest]: [ne] pe behindan nu læt'; this is obviously untenable, and was, no doubt, due to Thorpe's erroneous reading of the MS., 'hider . . . pe behindan . . . es nu læt.'

161. heannissum, so MS.; Gr. heahnissum.

162. ferh, so MS.; Gr. ferd.

168. worde, so MS.; probably a scribal error for worda, dependent on worn, unless the word must be construed with 'habbe gehyred,' 'I have heard in word,' i.e. 'I have heard spoken.'

187. gehwyrfed, so MS.; Gr. gewyrped.

188. nat-hwylces, so MS.; Gr. nat-hwylces [searo]; purh nat-hwylces may, perhaps, be explained as a confusion of two constructions;—purh nát-hwylcne (the accusative after purh), and nát hwylces, (the gen. after nát; cp. nát he para goda, Beow. 682.)

189. sprece, so MS.; Gr. spræce.

201. heag-engel, so MS.; Gr. heah-engel.

205. tir-fruma[n], MS. tir-fruma.

209. sunu, so MS.; Gr. suna.

228. weoroda, so MS.; Gr. weroda.

229. forp a, so MS.; Th. forpā (i.e. forpam); Gr. furpum.

238. Cp. Prov. viii. 22-31.

243. miltse, MS. milstse.

246. mægon, so MS.; Gr. magon.

256. eowde, d corrected from 8 in MS.

274. mæra. Th. suggested that the word was due to an error of the scribe, and should properly be maria; there is no evidence for this view, but it is probable that the poet used mæra because of its likeness to maria,—the sort of popular etymology that the old homilists delighted in.

276. para [p]e gewurde, MS. para ege wurde; a letter erased before ege.

280. selesten, so MS.; Gr. selestan.

284. world cundra, MS. worlcundra.

299. gehealden, this form is either the infinitive (= gehealdan), 'and thou shalt hold thyself immaculate,' dependent on pu sceolde, or it may, perhaps, be better construed as a past part., dependent on pu sceolde (wesan); cp. sceal gewrixled (wesan), l. 1259; in this case pe must be rendered as an accusative of regard, 'as for thee, Mary, thou shalt be held immaculate for aye.'

302. Esaias, an error for Ezekiel; cp. Ezek. xliv. 1-3.

309. Wende swide pæt ænig elda æfre meahte; one would expect ne before meahte, i.e. 'he felt sure that mortal might not,' etc.; the emendation may be unnecessary, if wende pæt = wende hu pæt, wende having almost the force of wundrade.

312. in-hebba, MS. in hebba; Gr. inhebban; the prefix evidently has the force of O. H. G. int, ent, 'to heave up' (O. H. G. intheffen); cp. in-bindan, 'to unbind,' e.g. an sceal in-bindan forstes fetre, 'one shall unbind the fetters of frost,' Gnomic Verses (Exeter Bk.), 75; both forms are hapaxlegomena.

321. stonded, so MS.; Gr. stondad.

333. liopu-cægan, lit. 'a limb-key.'

338. motan, MS. motam.

360. nied, MS. med.

370. we, MS. pe.

395. wear[dia]8, MS. wear8.

398. flihte, so MS.; Gr. flyhte.

409. heannessum, so MS.; Gr. heahnessum.

418. wiht, MS. niht (= uiht = wiht).

422. prim, so MS.; Gr. prym.

#### PART II.

The poet has made very free use of Gregory's 29th Homily, sects. 9-11, in the second part of his poem. For convenience of reference, the text is printed in the appendix. Cynewulf's true poetical talent loses nothing by comparison with his original.

L

- 445. mund-heals, a hapaxlegomenon; (?) = mund-héals, (cp. héals-bôc), 'salus tutelæ,' i.e. 'the safety which comes from the protection (mund) afforded by another'; but cp. mund, l. 92, and the special use of heals in such compounds as heals-mægeð, Gen. 2155; heals-gebedda, Beow. 63; mund-heals may have had a similar meaning, 'beloved maiden.'
  - 455. brega, so MS.; Gr. brego.
  - 493. cwomun, so MS.; Gr. cwomon.
  - 495. weardedun, MS. weardedum.
  - 502. heredun, MS. heredum.
  - 515. stóll, so MS.; Gr. stól.
- 516-518. I take these lines to be the reply of Galileans; another interesting instance of the dramatic bent of Cynewulf's genius. Grein takes ll. 509-525 as one long speech. The MS. is in favour of my view of the passage, as a new section begins with l. 516.
  - 518. gedryt, so MS.; Gr. gedryht.
- 526. bifengun, a scribal error for bifangen, due probably to the Northern bifen of the archetype (cp. l. 1156).
- 536. wopes hring, 'a ring of weeping.' This phrase occurs four times in A. S. poetry, an instance occurring in each of the four poems, Elene, Guthlac, Andreas, and Christ; its peculiar force is somewhat doubtful; Grimm explains it as fletus intensissimus quasi circulatim erumpens; Grein connects hring with hringan, 'sonare'; I render the phrase by 'unbroken weeping,' taking 'hring' in its literal sense of 'ring,' the symbol of continuity.
  - 538. hreder, MS. hreder.
  - 539. beorn, MS. born; bidon, MS. bidan.
  - 547. al-beorhte, MS al-beorhte.
  - 557. bireafod, so MS.; Gr. bereafod.
  - 558. hi, fem. sing. referring to helle (f.).
- 559. orlege, lit. 'war, strife, hostility,' also 'a place where hostility is shown,' as in this passage; cp. 'Cwædon væt he on vam beorge byrnan sceolde... gif he monna dream of vam orlege eft ne wolde sylfa gesecan, Guth. 167; also Guth. 426; 'orlege' in both passages = the place which Guthlac had selected for his dwelling, wresting it from the evil spirits.

563. ne meahtan, MS. ne, ahtan.

585. gehyrdan, so MS.; Gr. gehyrdon.

589. wunat, so MS.; Gr. wunap.

589-596. Note the rhyme and assonance, used to give special point to the passage.

613. yrmöu, so MS.; Gr. yrmöa.

614. [h]is, MS. is.

618. [wæs], evidently omitted by the scribe after sungen.

634. sunu, so MS.; Gr. suna.

653. flyht, MS. flyt.

658-664. This digression on 'the arts and crafts' is a free paraphrase of the lines in Gregory's Homily, (see Appendix II.,) 'dedit vero dona hominibus; quia misso desuper Spiritu, alii sermonem sapientiæ, alii sermonem scientiæ, alii gratiam virtutum, alii gratiam curationum, alii genera linguarum, alii interpretationem tribuit sermonum. Dedit ergo dona hominibus.' comparing the Anglo-Saxon and Latin two points are noteworthy; in the first place, the amplification of the theme, so as to include secular as well as spiritual gifts; in the second place, the addition of God's motive in not giving all His gifts to any one man; this is not in the original. It is clear that the poet, when he came to the passage in Gregory's Homily, was reminded of a poem, written, in all probability by himself, at an earlier period, preserved in the Exeter MS, and known as 'Manna Cræftas.' A comparison of the lines under discussion and the poem brings out a large number of parallelisms of expression. I am inclined to think that Gregory's Commentary on Job, xxxviii. 4-5, was the original of the poem. Here we have the motive, which is not in the Homily. At the same time I should not be surprised to find a passage in Gregory's works even nearer to the Anglo-Saxon. The original of ll. 682-4 should be words to this effect :-

'Non enim uni dantur omnia, ne in superbiam elatus cadat.'

(Cp. Gregory, Lib. 1, Homilia x. sect. 32, on Ezekiel iii. 13, with marginal note, 'cur divisiones gratiarum sint.')

672. sumum, MS. sum<sup>ū</sup>.

677. heanne, so MS.; Gr. heahne.

683. him, MS. hī; Th. Gr. 'MS. hi.'

697. lixed, MS. lixed.

708. feodan, between o and d a letter erased in MS.

709. blæd, MS. blæð.

711. dauipes, so MS.; Gr. dauides.

718. ealle, so MS.; Th. Gr. 'MS. eall.'

723. gebyrda, so MS., either the nom. plural, or a scribal error for gebyrdu.

730. hell-warena; MS. hell-werena; cp. Juliana, 322, hell-warena cyning.

739. gesawan, so MS.; Gr. gesawon.

742. eadgum, so MS.; Th. Gr. 'MS. eadgu.'

756. sellran, MS. sellan.

761. eglum, MS. englum.

765. fær-scyte, MS. fær, scyte.

776. si, MS. si.

783. hleotan, h added by a later hand.

789. dy repran, MS. dyrepran; Th. emended to dy repran.

795. læded, MS. lædað. 803. scæcen, so MS.

799-806. v. 'Excursus on the Runes.'

805. bilocen, so MS., (misprinted bilocan, Gr.)

807. blac rasetteo, MS. blacra setteo; Kemble, blac rasetteo; Ettm. blác rasetteo; Gr. blac rasetteo; cp. pat fyr meahte réad rásettan, Boethius, Metre 9, (quoted by Grein with wrong reference, 11, 14;) in this latter passage, too, the editors read readra settan; Gr. rightly corrects to read rasettan.

808. recen reada, Th. recen-reada, 'the smoke red'; Gr. recen reada; leg, so MS.; Th. Gr. lig.

810. on tyhte; Th. ontyhte, 'kindled.'

812. gæsta, 'of guests,' so Th.; Gr. gæsta, 'of spirits.'

819. gæst-hofe, so MS.; Gr. gast-hofe.

820. on, so MS.; Gr. in.

826. beheofiað, so MS.; Gr. beofiað; cp. Heora mædenu ne synt behéofode, 'virgines eorum ne sunt lamentatæ,' (Lambeth Psalter, 77, 63).

829. bade, MS. bade.

832. mæsta, so MS.; Th. Gr. mæste.

834. cwaniendra, MS. cwanendra. cerge, so MS.; Ettm. Gr. cearge.

841. leofra, so MS.; Gr. leofre; the change to the neuter is, perhaps, unnecessary, as the word probably anticipated a masculine noun, per = sum stede hwer. eall, so MS., Gr. eal.

865. heahpu, so MS.; Th. heahpū; Gr. heahdum.

#### PART III.

The source of the third part of the poem is, undoubtedly, the hymn 'De die Judicii,' (see Appendix III.,) as shown by Professor A. S. Cook, (Modern Language Notes, June 1889.) Special interest attaches to this hymn. It is certainly as old as the seventh century, for Bede refers to it in his work, De Metris. Daniel says of it: 'Juvat carmen fere totum e Scripturâ sacrâ depromptum comparare cum celebratissimo illo extremi judicii præconio, Dies iræ, dies illa, quo majestate et terroribus, non sanctâ simplicitate et fide, superatur.'

873. genægeð, 'assaulteth'; genægan, with accus. of person, and gen. or instr. of thing; cp. 'we pec níða genægað, Guth. 261.

874-876. These lines do not paraphrase any words of the Latin hymn; they were, perhaps, vaguely suggested by the second couplet, 'brevis totus . . . sæculum.'

884. ealle, MS. healle.

894. onhalo gelac, 'the hidden hosts'; Gr. renders onhale = 'entire'; no other instance occurs of 'onhale' in the sense of 'whole'; the usual frequent usage is 'secret,' 'hidden'; cp. wid is pes westen, wracsetla fela, eardas onhale earmra gasta, Guth. 268. Th. renders, 'an unsound assemblage'; Toller, 'the entire hosts.'

907. gebleod, cp. Da wyrta gréowon mid menigfealdum blostmum mislice gebléode, 'the plants grew diversely coloured with manifold blossoms,' (the Anglo-Saxon version of the Hexameron of St. Basil, ed. Norman, 10, 36.)

920. pæt mæg wites to wearnunga (sc. wesan), 'that may be for the soul's warning.'

923. ponne, so MS., not pon as Th.

926. gehwone, MS. gehwore.

933-937; the poet has missed the point of the original:—
'erubescet orbis lunæ sol et obscurabitur.'

959. untweo, so Gr.; MS. untreo, an obvious scribal error, due, perhaps, to the rare use of untweo; no other instance of the word is recorded, but cp. untweofeald, 'untwéofealde tréowa,' (Bœthius, Metre, 11, 95.)

adames, the first and second a in this word, as written in the MS., resemble the rounded Celtic a, and are different from the ordinary letter employed by the scribe.

960. gesargad, MS. gesargað; cp. gesargad, l. 969, where d was originally of, the erased stroke is still visible.

977. pa, MS. pu.

978. scehdun, so MS., probably = scédun, past tense of scéadan, 'to separate'; Gr. suggests scéndun, 'von einem scénan, verwandt mit ahd. scónón, parcere? oder für sceldun = scildun schirmten?'

985. sundes getwæfde, 'bereft of swimming-craft'; Th., Gr., Toller, render sund, 'ocean,' 'cut off from the ocean.' I think the abstract use of the word in the sense of 'natatio' is preferable here; cp. 'he pe æt sunde oferflát,' Beow. 517.

1025. adames, cp. 1. 959.

1041. liffruma, MS. liffruman.

1046. wera, so MS.; Th. Gr. read weras, making it subj. of magon; the change seems unnecessary, if bemipan is construed intransitively.

1078. motun, MS. motum.

1087. MS. bydyrned.

1089. The line is evidently defective; Gr. suggests [getéod] weorped.

1091. wita ne cupun, 'they did not know'; wita = witan; cupun used as auxiliary; Gr. construes wita as gen. plur. of wite, 'punishment'; cp. l. 1212, wita ne cupon, which Gr. treats similarly; the omission of the infinitive n in the phrase is, probably, due to the northern archetype.

1093. man-forwyrhtu, so MS. Th. forwyrhtū (i.e. um).

1099. genomian, so MS.; Gr. gemonian.

1104. Lit. 'They shall see as their bane that which came to them best.'

1126, etc., cp. Appendix IV.; the same passage was paraphrased by Aelfric, (see *Homilies*, ed. Thorpe, p. 108.)

1129. crvice, so MS.; not crvico, as Th. Gr.

1130. þa hyra; MS. þa þe hyra.

1133. The alliteration is wanting; Gr. reads [hu] in hierusalem, etc.; it is noteworthy that the chief initial letters in the line h, g, c approximate to alliterative effect, (? cp. l. 23.)

1156. bifén, Northern or Mercian form of p.p. of bifén; cp.

gedénra, 1264.

1157. bibyrgde, MS. bibyrgede (i.e. bibyrgde), not bibyrgede, as Th., Gr.

1167. frean, MS. fream; Gr. by a curious error has misread Th.'s note 'sream,' and taken it to refer to eah-stream.

1174. rindum, so MS.; Th. Gr. roderum, (a remarkable error.)

1175. magun, MS. magum.

1207. hu, so MS.; Gr. suggests hy.

1212. Cp. note, l. 1091.

1230. wenat, MS. weneat, (i.e. wenat.)

1245. motun, MS. motum.

1249. wlite, so MS.; Th. Gr. slite.

1264. atol, neut. subst., or, perhaps, one should read atol-earfoða.

1269. pa, so MS.; Th. Gr. pam (pa).

1282. ypæst, so MS.; Gr. ypast.

1293. gefean, MS. gefeon.

1300. pon, so MS.; Th. Gr. ponne.

1301. gescomeden, so MS.; Gr. gescomedon.

1306. bigæð, I feel sure that here we have an instance of bigán in the sense of 'to confess,' (cp. M. H. G. bigehan,) though no instance is recorded in Anglo-Saxon lexicons. The more usual usage of the word is 'to commit'; Th. 'when they commit sins'; similarly, Gr. Toller.

1310. unbeted, MS. &, corrected to d.

1317. lifes tiligan, 'to strive for life'; cp. 'donne he æt hilde sceall wid låd werud lifes tiligan,' (Salomon and Saturn, l. 159).

- 1318. & Solian, 'to endure.' I can see nothing against this straightforward way of rendering the word; Grein's view that it is O. H. G. adaljan, M. H. G. edelen, nobilitare, is untenable; the sense of the whole passage has, I think, escaped both Th. and Gr. The rendering of the former is quite meaningless. Gr. takes wille as equivalent to scyle, so that the lines, according to him, imply man's duty 'lifes tiligan syn-rust pwean,' etc.
  - 1319. syn-rust pwean, so. MS.; Gr. prean.
  - 1328. innan, M.S. mnan; magun, MS. magum.
  - 1336. mæðleð, MS. mædleð.
- 1346. hwonne, so MS.; Gr. ponne; the former reading is altogether preferable, hwonne depending on gearo, 'ready for the day when'; leofstum, MS. leoftum.
  - 1349. onfengun, MS. onfengum.
- 1355.  $\alpha$  fndon, MS.  $\alpha$  fdon; the insertion of the n is, perhaps, unnecessary, as n is occasionally lost in consonantal-nan verbs, e.g. nemde, past tense of nemnan; but cp.  $ge\alpha$  fnde, l. 1428.
  - 1369. MS. miccle.
- 1374. ywan, 'to show,' MS. yoan, 'to flow,' (probably due to an earlier error ypan.)
  - 1380. leope, so MS.; Gr. leodo (for leope).
- 1389. neorxnawang, the etymology of this Old English equivalent of the Latin paradisus has been satisfactorily solved by Mr. Henry Bradley (Acad. No. 911, p. 254); its Gothic representative would be nawi-rohsnē waggs, and its full form in Anglo-Saxon nēo-rohsna wang, 'field of the palaces of the dead.' There is, as yet, no evidence as to whether the word was of pagan or Christian origin; probably the former, being perhaps the Saxon equivalent of the Scandinavian bdainsakr.
  - 1397. fremum, so MS.; not firenum, as Th. Gr.

sealde, MS. salde.

1411. [h]ingonge, MS. ingonge.

1421. bipeahte mid, so MS.; Gr. bepeahte mec mid.

1429. wære pe gelic; MS. wære wege lic.

1434. oft and-lata, Th. oft and lata; Gr. 'andlata(?) man erwartet die Bedeutung Backenstreiche oder Beschimpfung'; he punctuates accordingly:—

'and fore monna lufan min prowade heafod hearmslege; hleor gebolade oft and-lata.' . . .

1445. heanne, MS. heanne; Gr. heahne.

1447. utgotun, so MS.; Gr. ut-guton.

1450. wite, corrected in MS. from wita.

1453. geseoò, Gr. suggests that this word may be from geséon, 'percolare,' comparing biséon, l. 1087, but éac geseon, l. 1456, makes it clear that this view is untenable.

gefremedun, so MS.; Gr. gefremedon.

1486. mec, so MS.; Th. Gr. me.

1487. heardra, Gr. heardre.

1488. swærra, Gr. swærre.

1489. gefæstnad, corrected in the MS. from gefæstnað.

1494. in heofonum, Th. Gr. on heofonum.

1495. wurde, MS. worde, an evident scribal error; cp. the previous line.

1508. gepegede, I take this word to be the weak past participle of gepicgan, 'to take'; hence 'taken by thirst'; similarly, æpelinga bearn eegum of pegde, Gen. 2002; Th. suggests gepregede, 'oppressed'; Gr. derives it from ge-pecgan, 'consumere,' suggesting, too, a possible connection with gepéwan (gepéon), i.e. gepegde = gepewde; Toller follows Grein. It does not seem to have occurred to lexicographers to bring the word in connection with picgan, the past participle of which verb seems to be singularly rare.

1511. dydan, so MS.; Gr. dydon.

1525. grimne, originally grimme, corrected in MS.

1529 swi[8]ran, MS. swiran.

1532. sceat, MS. scat.

1535. deofles, Th. Gr. deofoles; but MS. deofoles (i.e. deofles).

1541. sinnehte, so MS.; Gr. sin-nihte.

1575. nængum, so MS.; Gr. ængum.

1578. leoht and gæst, so MS.; Gr. lic and gæst; but cp. leoht and lif, (Widsith, 142.)

1594. lætað, so MS.; Gr. læteð.

1596. bid, MS. bið.

1599. Gr. ponne mán [fremmað]

Hwæt him se waldend to wrace gesette.

1610. mo[r]por, MS. mopor.

1620. bindenne, over the first n there is a badly-formed m, or three strokes resembling m.

1627. ower, MS. oper; Th. operne (?); Gr. ower.

1630. sin-nehte, so MS.; Gr. sin-nihte.

1632. [for-]hogdun, MS. hogdun, evidently an error for for-hogdun, or ne hogdun.

1633. berað beorhte frætwe, these words evidently render the Latin 'regni petent gaudia'; perhaps the poet read 'regni ferent gaudia.'

1645. beorhte, so MS.; Th. Gr. beorht.

1646. Gr. freogað folces weard: fæder ealra geweald hafað and healdeð haligra weorud.

I take l. 1647 as merely a poetical periphrasis for pone wealdendne and healdendne haligra weoruda.

1649. pær, MS. pæs.

1650. leohtra, so MS.; Gr. leohtre.

1661. giefe, MS. gief, after which there is an erasure.

1663. wlite scynast, Gr. wlite-scynast. dryhten, in the MS., is followed by:—:7, and a blank space of some three lines indicates the close of the poem. The next section of the MS. begins on the following page with a long flourish of capital letters.

# AN EXCURSUS

ON

THE CYNEWULF RUNES.

'Her mæg findan foreþances gleaw Se de hine lysted leodgiddunga Hwa þas fitte fegde.'

# THE CYNEWULF RUNES.

#### CHRIST, 796-806.

THE Runes in this passage stand for the letters Cynwulf, and together form the name of the author. A similar artifice is found in three other poems-'Elene,' 'Juliana,' and 'The Fates of the Apostles.' 'Christ' and 'Juliana' are both in the Exeter Codex; 'Elene' and 'The Fates of the Apostles' in the Vercelli Codex; the latter poem consists of little more than 100 lines; it is certainly no very meritorious piece of work, and it seems strange that the poet should have been so anxious to attest his authorship thereof by a long Runic passage. MS. the poem immediately follows the 'Legend of Andreas,' and I am more and more inclined to regard it as a mere epilogue to this more ambitious epic, standing in exactly the same relationship therefore to it that the tenth passus of 'Elene' does to the whole poem. Its relationship is, perhaps, even closer, for, whereas the ninth passus of 'Elene' ends with 'finit,' there is no such indication of the ending of the poem in the case of 'Andreas.' At the present moment I can see nothing that militates against this view of the Cynewulfian authorship of this latter poem, and further investigation will enable us, I think, to claim that Cynewulf inserted his name in his four most important works—the epics on 'Christ,' 'Elene,' 'Juliana,' and 'Andreas.' covery of the runic passage at the end of 'The Fates of the Apostles' was made by Professor Napier some three years ago,

and a transcript of the half-obliterated text was published by him in the Zeitschrift für deutsches Alterthum, vol. XXXIII. The four runic passages may be divided into two divisions; the first, in which the Runes stand merely for the letters of the poet's name; the second, in which the Runes discharge a two-fold function, representing not merely the letters of the poet's name, but also the words that the letters suggest, the names of the letters or homonyms. To the first class belongs the passage in 'Juliana'; to the second, the other three passages. The interpretation of the Runes in these latter passages is one of difficulty; in the first place, the lines in which they occur are by their very nature intended to puzzle the reader or the hearer, being almost riddles: in the second, several of the Runes bore different names at different periods, and we have not as much information on the subject as we need. Our chief sources of knowledge are the Runic alphabets, which, in many cases, have the names of the letters assigned throughout, and in some cases an interpretation of these names, and the 'Rune Poem,' printed by Hickes from a MS. now lost; in this poem each Rune is followed by its name, together with a short poetical interpretation of its meaning. explanation of a Rune in any one of these passages should, I think, hold good when applied to the corresponding Rune in the other passages. For convenience of reference I print the four passages, substituting Roman letters for the Runes, and numbering each line.

### A. CHRIST, [796—806]

- 1. ponne · C · cwacað gehyreð cyning mæðlan
- 2. rodera ryhtend sprecan repe word
- 3. pam pe him ær in worulde wace hyrdon
- 4. pendan · Y · and · N · ypast meahtan
- 5. frofre findan · pær sceal forht monig
- 6. on pam wong-stede werig bidan
- 7. hwæt him æfter dædum deman wille
- 8. wrapra wita. Bip se · W · scæcen
- 9. eorþan frætwa · U · was longe

10. · L · flodum bilocen lif-wynna dæl

11. · F · on foldan ponne frætwe sculon

12. byrnan on bæle.

# B. ELENE, [1257—1271]

I. A was sacc of fat

- 2. cynnessed cearwelmum  $\cdot$   $\mathbf{C}$   $\cdot$  drusende
- 3. peah he in medohealle maomas pege
- 4. æplede gold · Y · gnornode
- 5. · N · gefera nearusorge dreah
- 6. enge rune pær him · E · fore
- 7. milpaðas mæt modig þrægde
- 8. wirum gewlenced · W · is geswiorad
- 9. gomen æfter gearum geogoð is gecyrred
- 10. ald onmedla · U · wæs geara
- 11. geogodhades glæm nu synt geardagas
- 12. æfter fyrstmearce forð gewitene
- 13. lifwynne geliden swa · L · toglideð
- 14. flodas gefysde · F · æghwam bið
- 15. læne under lyfte landes frætwe
- 16. gewitap under wolcnum winde geliccost.

## C. FATA APOSTOLORUM, [96—106]

- 1. Her mæg findan forepances gleaw
- 2. se ve hine lyslev leovgiddunga
- 3. hwa pas fitte fegde · F · pær on ende standeð
- 4. eorlas pæs on eorðan br[u]cap ne moton hie awa 1 ætsomne
- 5. woruldwunigende · W · sceal gedreosan
- 6.  $\cdot$   $\mathbf{U}$  · on eŏle æfter to-h[reosan] <sup>2</sup>
- 7. læne lices frætewa efne swa · L · toglideð

2 Napier, to-hreosab.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Napier reads awa eardian, but there is no space in MS.; I follow Sievers' arrangement; v. Anglia, xiii. pp. 1-25.

- 8. [ponne] 1 · C · [and · Y ·] cræftes neosað 2
- 9. nihtes nearowe on him [ · N · ligeo] 3
- 10. [cy]ninges peodom . nu du cunnan miht
- 11. hwa on þæm wordum wæs werum oncyðig.

### D. JULIANA, [704-711].

Geomor hweorfeð

2. · C · Y · and · N · cyning bip repe

3. sigora syllend ponne synnum fah

4. · E · W · and · U · acle bidað

5. hwæt him æfter dædum deman wille

6. lifes to leane · L · F · beofað

7. seomað sorgcearig sar eal genom

8. synna wunde pe ic sið oððe ær

9. geworhte in worulde.

1. C-Rune; the name of the rune in all the Runic alphabets is cén, i.e. 'a torch,' literally 'a pine'; the word is rare in A. S.; its sole use seems to have been as the runic-name; no other instance is recorded. In passage A, B, C, the poet is evidently using the rune to suggest to his hearers the adjective  $c\acute{e}n(e)$ , i.e. 'keen,' 'bold,' 'active.' In passage B the temptation is strong to regard C-drusende as equivalent to 'a drooping torch,' but in order to obtain this meaning, it is necessary to emend the MS., changing sæcc, 'discontent,' into secg, 'man'; moreover drusian is specially used in the sense of 'to become inactive' (by reason of old age); cp. Phœnix, 368, he drusende deap ne bisorgao. Cene drusende, i.e. 'the ageing warrior,' is, to my mind, the subject of the whole passage, and is added as explanatory of the words á was sacc oð dat. I much doubt whether the words conveyed any other meaning to Cynewulf's hearers. I differ, too, from previous commentators in constructing peah in direct connection with the first half-line, regarding cnyssed . . . drusende as a parenthesis.

Napier, swa; Sievers, bonne (?).
<sup>2</sup> MS. neotaδ; Sievers, neosaδ.
<sup>3</sup> N · ligeδ, Sievers' suggestion.

The C-Rune in passage C is, as will be seen below, capable of similar interpretation.

2. YRune. Its name in the A.S. alphabets is  $\hat{y}r$ ; in the 'Rune Poem'  $\hat{y}r$  is described in words that lead one to render it as 'a bow':—

'yr bib æbelinga and eorla gehwæs wyn and wyrbmynd, byb on wicge fæger, fæstlic on færelde fyrdgeatewa sum.'

Yet, in spite of the Rune poem, jr cannot have meant 'a bow' in A. S.; jr is the old Norse equivalent of the A. S.  $\acute{e}ow$ , 'yew,' which latter word is actually the name of another rune in the Rune-Poem; it is therefore a fair inference that the interpretation of the Y-Rune as a 'bow' in this one place is due to Scandinavian influence on the writer of the passage in question, seeing also that in the Scandinavian Runic alphabet the letter bears the same name jr, constantly glossed 'arcus'; probably the whole idea of the Rune-Poem was suggested by similar Scandinavian poems, and the writer did not recognise that the Norse jr, in the sense of 'bow,' was identical with the A. S.  $\acute{e}ow$ , 'yew-tree'; as a modern poet has it:—

'Dark down the windy vale I grow, The father of the fateful Bow.'

In my opinion, no ordinary Anglo-Saxon would have been able to give any meaning at all to jr as the name of the Y-rune, and if told by a scholar that it meant 'a bow,' he would have failed to see any reason for the name; the shape of the rune in A. S. n certainly does not suggest 'a bow,' though the name applies excellently to the Scandinavian n. The Y-Rune must have been a fairly late creation in A. S., and its symbol is rightly nothing but a modification of the U-Rune, n; similarly the name of the rune, i.e. jr, is, I take it, merely due to the umlauted form of the name of the U-Rune, i.e. ir; the rune and its name probably passed from England to Scandinavia, and there it was naturally interpreted to mean jr, 'a bow.'

How then is the rune to be interpreted, as used by Cynewulf?

<sup>1</sup> W. Morris: Poems by the Way: Tapestry Trees; The Yew.
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In passage A, it seemingly might stand for yrm\(\delta\_0\), 'misery'; and this view has been held by most scholars—Thorpe, Kemble, Grein; several points might be urged against the interpretation, and however plausible the suggestion seems, it is, I now think, quite untenable. Apart from other tests, the interpretation will not hold good for passage B. Grimm, Grein, Zupitza, etc., construe the rune in this latter passage as 'bow'; Leo suggests that it is equivalent to the A. S. rune  $\ell a$ , and  $= \ell a r$ , i.e. 'earth,' 'the grave,' here = 'verfall der kr\(\delta\_0\)ft. Reiger would substitute the rune  $\alpha$ , and read  $\alpha \delta il$  (=A. S.  $\ell \delta el$ ); similarly in passage A he would substitute Northumbrian  $\alpha dil$  = A. S.  $v \alpha dl$ , 'mendicitas.'

In passage C, the words represented by the C-Rune and Y-Rune, which are co-ordinated, must evidently be the same part of speech; if C=céne, 'the bold warrior,' in the same sense as in the other passages, one would expect Y to stand for an adjective or substantive, in any case of masculine gender; but in passage A the Y-Rune is co-ordinated with the N-Rune; concerning the meaning of this latter rune there is no doubt; it represents the abstract noun nýd, 'necessity'; therefore the Y-Rune in this latter passage must, I think, stand for some similar abstract noun. Judging by A and C, the Y-Rune represents a y-word that can discharge the two-fold functions of a masculine adjective (or noun) and of an abstract noun. The only Anglo-Saxon word that satisfies these requirements is yfel=(1) wretched; (2) affliction; and there is, I venture to think, strong reasons for favouring this interpretation of the Y-Rune in the three passages. In passage A, yfel and  $n\dot{y}d =$ 'affliction and distress'; in passage B, yfel gnornode nydgefera = 'afflicted, mourned the companion of sorrow'; in passage C, cene and yfel='the bold warrior and the afflicted wretch.'

May not the name yfel have been suggested by the name of the W-Rune, i.e. wynn, 'joy,' being a sort of antithesis to it? The letter y would probably at first have followed w immediately in Runic alphabets arranged in the order of the Roman letters, before a special symbol was found for the double letter x. In Scandinavian alphabets no separate sign occurs for this latter sound, which is represented by the runes for hs.

3. N-Rune. The interpretation of this rune is simple. As regards passage A,  $N = n\acute{y}d =$  'necessity, hardship,' Y and N being the subject of meahtan. As regards B, the authorities vary on the question of the continuation of  $n\acute{y}d$  and gefera; Grimm reads N gefera nearu sorge dreah; Ettmüller, N gefera, nearusorge dreah; Kemble, N gefere, nearu sorge dreah; Grein, Zupitza, etc., nydgefera, etc. The point of the expression nydgefera is, I think, that it serves the purpose of a double entendre; the poet uses it not merely to express its literal meaning 'the companion of sorrow;' 'yfel' (i.e. the Y-Rune) may well be described as nyd-gefera, i.e. 'the companion of the N-Rune' in the poet's name, (cp. gefera as a technical word in Ælfric's Grammar, wordes gefera = an adverb.)

A similar double entendre occurs, I think, in the next line; enge rune = (1) nearu-sorge, 'a constraining sorrow'; (2) a description of the N-Rune, 'the narrow rune,' +; in 'Cynewulf' this 'narrow rune' comes between two especially wide ones; hence, perhaps, the special point of the words.

In C, 'N lige's' is the excellent reading suggested by Sievers; the letters are obliterated in the MS.

4. E-Rune. In A and C this rune does not occur, and it would seem that the poet styled himself in these passages 'Cynwulf,' and not 'Cynewulf' (on the philological aspect of the form 'Cynwulf,' see Sievers' remarks, Anglia xiii.). Thorpe noted concerning A that the absence of the rune E, and the want of connection in the sense, proved the loss of a couplet between wrapra wita and bipse; Grein similarly suggested the insertion of a line containing an E-Rune,

'hwat him after dadum deman wille [on ham E-fullan dage engla dryhten] wrahra wita,'

interpreting 'E. full' = eh-full, = egefull, 'terribilis,' (usually E = eh, 'equus'). But the passage makes perfect sense without any interpolation, and the discovery of passage C corroborates this view; the space between nearowe and [cy]ninges peodom would not suffice for more than the words containing the

N-Rune, as Sievers has pointed out in the article referred to above. Professor Napier was originally of opinion that the obliterated passage might have contained the E-Rune as well as the N-Rune.<sup>1</sup>

In A, wrapra wita is, of course, the partitive genitive after hwat; the subject of wille is clear in both A and D; the identity of expression in the two passages is remarkable.

The *E*-Rune in B = eh, 'horse'; the word *fore* that follows the rune has been variously interpreted—(1) as an adverb formerly; (2) as a preposition governing him; (3) = *fore*, 'on the journey.' I prefer (2) 'before him'; the poet, I take it, was filled with grief when he watched the hunt, but could not join in it; otherwise the passage must mean, 'where once he had joined in the delights of the hunt, he now wandered sorrow-laden.'

5. W-Rune. The proper name of this rune = wyn, i.e. 'joy'; this name of the letter is given in the Salzburg Runic Alphabet, and an interesting piece of additional evidence exists, in the fact that jubilitate is glossed  $\triangleright$  sumia $\triangleright$ , i.e. wynsumia $\triangleright$  in the Ninety-ninth Psalm of the Oxford Interlinear Version, MS. Junius 27, (as pointed out by Professor Logeman;) uninne is also the name of the Gothic letter in the Salzburg MS. A dialectical variety of wyn = wenn, which was probably identified with wén, i.e. 'hope'; hence the latter interpretation of the name of the rune. In the Runic poem the lines on W run as follows:—

'w (wen) ne bruce, de can weana lyt, sares and sorge, etc.

If the rune is interpreted as  $w\acute{e}n = 'hope'$  in this passage, it is impossible to understand the lines; but wen ne = wenne = wynne, genitive of wyn, after bruce. Similarly in the Rhyme Poem, 1. 76:—

I may as well point out that I had printed the lines in *Christ* without the interpretation of the *E*-Rune, interpreting it as it stands in my text, before the discovery of the Fata Apost. fragment; I had noted, too, the value of the discovery as corroboration of the form 'Cynwulf,' before the appearance of Sievers' notable article; the same is true of my interpretation of the *W*-Rune as *wyn* (not *wen*, as previous editors).

'bonne lichoma liged · lima wyrm friteb ac him wen ne gewiged,' etc.

there, too, wen ne = wenne = wynne.

In passage A, B, C, the rune is clearly to be interpreted wynn; Grein renders it  $w\acute{e}n$  in A, wen = wynn in B, Napier interpreted the rune in C as  $w\acute{e}n$ , Sievers as wynn (see Ang/ia xiii.). The letters of the alphabet in Anglo-Saxon are masculine; hence se W., although wynn is feminine.

U-Rune. The name of the rune in the Runic Alphabets = ur, interpreted to mean 'a bull,' cp. Runic Poem, l. 4:—

U(ur) bib anmod and ofer-hyrned, 'the bull is fierce with horns above his head.'

The rune in A, B, and C, has baffled the ingenuity of commentators. As regards A, Kemble, Thorpe, and Grein, take the letter to represent úr, formerly; but the adverb does not occur in Anglo-Saxon; its equivalent, or, is used only as a prefix; and although at first sight it seems that some adverb must be understood in this place, the objections against ur are insurmountable; I had thought it possible that perhaps iu, 'formerly,' might have stood, but I retract this view now. As regards the rune in B, Grimm takes it merely as the letter U, and makes it represent the whole name of the poet-'Cynewulf war ehemals die wonne der jugend'; Kemble, 'U (I was of old) a gleam of youth'; Leo,  $\dot{u}r = \dot{o}r$ , 'sonst war gold der jugendzeit wonneglanz'; Grein interprets B in the same way as A, 'olim'; Zupitza, úr= 'auerochse'; the scholars that interpret the rune as equivalent to úr, 'bull,' take it to mean 'property' in general, comparing the use of feoh, but there is absolutely no evidence in favour of this view, and Sievers' interpretation of Uon eole in C, 'das gut im erbsitze,' seems to me untenable. The only Anglo-Saxon word that will satisfy the three passages seems to be the possessive pronoun úr, 'our'; Dr. Cosijn (in 'Verslagen en mededeelingen der koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen, Afdeeling Letterkunde,' pp. 54-64) suggested the possibility of this interpretation, noting that úr is a frequent form of the pronoun in the Vespasian Psalter; but more important evidence in favour of the view exists in the fact that in a Runic Alphabet (Domitian, A, 9) the rune is actually glossed 'noster.' It is strange that this point has not been noticed; it confirms the probability. The alphabet in question is printed in Hicke's, p. 136. Finally, therefore,  $A = \dot{u}r$ ... lifwynna dæl;  $B = \dot{u}r$ ... geogodhades glæm;  $C = \dot{u}r$  wynn on edle. In A 'longe'='long ago'; cp. Ex. 557, 'wile nu gelæstan, pæt he lange gehet.' I take it that the words in A refer to the Deluge. With the phrase wynn on edle in C, cp. Rune Poem. l. 38—

eoh byb . . . wyn on eble.

7, 8. L and F call for no special comment; the name of the former, *lagu*, and of the latter, *féoh*, fit the passages in which they occur.

In the following rendering of the passages in question I have attempted to bring out the peculiar force of the original. In A, B, C, the Runic letters (*i.e.* their Roman equivalents) CYNE WULF stand respectively for the following words:—Cén(e), yfel, nyd, eh, wynn, úr, lagu, féoh; their English equivalents are printed in italics.

#### A.

- C: Then the *Keen* shall quake; he shall hear the Lord, the heaven's Ruler, utter words of wrath to those who in the world obeyed Him ill,
- Y'N' while affliction and distress most easily might find solace. There many afeared shall wearily await upon that plain what dire penalty He will adjudge to them,
- W according to their deeds. The winsomeness of earthy gauds
- U: shall then be changed. Long time ago our portion of life's joys
- L. was all encompassed by water-floods,
- **F**: yea, all our *possessions* upon earth; then each precious thing

shall be consumed in fire.

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Till then was nought but discontent,—

C. a bold warrior, drooping with age, buffeted by waves of care,—

yea, though in the mead-hall he received precious gifts,

**Y**·**N**· apple-shaped gold. *In his affliction, sorrow's* comrade murmured; grief, the narrowing rune,

E: constrained him, when he beheld the horse measuring the mile-paths, rushing proudly on,

W decked with adornments. Joy is now lessened, and delight, after many a year; youth is gone,

U. the pride of old. Ours was once youth's glorious radiance; now, at appointed time, those days of yore have passed away,

L' life's joy hath departed, as *the waters* ebb, the rushing floods. Transitory 'neath heaven

F. is the wealth of every man.

C.

A man of cunning thought may here discover, if he taketh pleasure in song,

who wrought this lay. Wealth cometh last, the friend of man on earth, while he dwelleth in the world,

but they cannot keep together always.

**U**·**W**·Our earthly joy shall fade, and the frail gauds of the flesh **L** shall afterwards decay, even as water glideth away.

C.Y. Bold warrior and afflicted wretch shall then crave help,

N in the anxious watches of the night; but *Destiny* o'errules, the King exacts their service. Now thou canst know, who was revealed to men in these words.

Sad shall depart

C·Y· and N·; the King will be stern, the Bestower of victory, when, sin-stained, E·W· and U· trembling shall await what He will adjudge to them, according to their deeds, as life's reward; L·F· shall quake, and linger sorrowful. All the pain I shall remember, the wounds of the sins, which I, early or late, wrought in the world.



# GLOSSARY



#### GLOSSARY

A, ever, 386. ábéatan, to beat, 939. ábéodan, to command, 228. ábídan, to abide, 1629. ábúgan, to withdraw, retire, 55. ácennan, to beget, 217, 443, 451. ácwedan, to speak, 315, 473, 713. ádl, disease, 1355. ádréogan, to suffer, 1200, 1474, 1512. ádwæscan, to quench, 1131. æfest, enmity, 1657. æfnan, to perform, to endure, 1355, 1368. æfre, ever, 324. æfyllende, following thelaw, faithful, 703. æghwæs, altogether, entirely, 1419. æht, possession, 603, 1500. ælan, to set on fire, 811, 1545. æl-beorht, resplendent, 505, 547, 927, 1275. álc, each, 332, 1301. ælde, men, 581, 619, 998, 1115, 1200.

æled, fire, conflagration, 958, 1004. ælmihtig, almighty, 120, 214, 319, 330, 394, 442, 758, 1217, 1371, 1377. éne, once, 328, 1193. źnig, any, 310, 350, 1183, 1315, 1330, 1383, 1496, 1574, 1627. ænlic, excellent, noble, 1294. ær, before, (conj.), 314; (prep.), 215, 847, 1344; (adv.) 62, 251, 1050, 1051, 1066, 1134, 1156, 1264, 1374. ér-dagas, former days, 78. érest (adv.), first, 354. érest (adj.), first, 785, 822, 1189, 1396. ær-gestréon, ancient treasure, 995. former ær-gewyrht, work, 1239. ærra, former, 1320. ær-woruld, former world, 935. æt, at, 499, 614; against, 272.

ét, food, 603. ætgædre, together, 1034. ætsomne, together, IIII. æt-wist, existence, presence, 391. ætýwan, to reveal. 1055, 1574. æþel-duguð, a noble attendance, 1010. æþele, nature, 1183. æþele, noble, 267, 349, 401, 454, 520, 665, 696, 718, 1179, 1193, 1197. æþelíc, noble, 307. æbeling, noble, prince, 157, 447, 502, 514, 626, 740, 742, 844. áfæran, to terrify, 891. áfón, to seize, 1182. áfréfran, to console, 367. áfyllan, to fill, 1561. áfyrhtan, to frighten, 1018. áfyrran, to remove, 1369, 1424. áfýsan, to hasten. 984. ágælan, to be careless,

to hinder, neglect, 815. ágan, to possess, 158, 1202, 1211, 1245, 1401, 1577, 1635. ágend, Lord, 419, 470, 512, 542, 1196. agiefan, to restore, give up, 1154, 1160, 1258, 1405. áhebban, to raise, 501, 657, 691. áhladan, to draw out, 567. áhón, to hang, 1092, 1445, 1486. áhreddan, to deliver, rescue, 15, 33, 373. áhycgan, to conceive, 901. álætan, to renounce, 166. álecgan, to lay down, 1421. alwealda (alwalda), Almighty, 139, 1189, 1363. alwihta, all beings, 273, 409, 686. álýfan, to allow, grant, 1571, 1636. álýsan, to let loose, to ransom, 717, 1098. álýsnes, redemption, 1472. án, one, 1236, 1302, 1376. ána, sole, alone, 556, 1419, 1451. an-boren, one born, 617. án-cenned, only begotten, 463.

ancor, an anchor, 862. and-gete, manifest, 1434. áscamian, 1241. and-giet, sense, wisdom, áscyrian, 665, 1379. andléan, retribution, 830. andsaca, adversary, 1002. I 592. andsæc, denial, 654. andswaru, answer, 183. andweard, present, 924, 1051, 1069, 1155. 1269, 1083, 1374, 1576. andwlita, countenance, 1121. ánfeald, single, 1576. án-forlætan, to for-1492. sake, let pass, 1294, 1395. án-módlíce, unani-988. mously, 339. ár, mercy, 69, 254, 334, 1230, 1351; glory, 1082. 1318. ár, a messenger, 492, 758; angel, 594. 1132. áræran, to raise up, 1064. árásian, to discover, 1228. áreccan, to expound, stretch out, 73, 221, árétan, to cheer, 1499. áweaxan, árfæst, merciful, 244. wax, 1251. árian, to honour, 1381;

to pity, 369.

1023, 1029.

árléas, shameful, 1428, to be ashamed, 1297. to part, sever, 1606, 1616. ásécan, to search out, ásecgan, to tell, ask, 220, 1175, 1473. áspringan, to escape from, 1536. ástandan, to stand, ástígan, to proceed, descend, arise, 701, 719, 726, 736, 785. ástyrfan, to slay, 191. á-teón, to draw out, atol, dire, terrible, 1277; terror, 1264. ápencan, to think, ápolian, to sustain, protract, draw out, áþrysman, to stifle, áδ-loga, breaker of oath, perjurer, 1603. áttor, poison, 767. áwæcnan, to awake, to be born, 66. áweallan, to stream forth, swarm, 624. to grow, áwéorpan, to cast down, overthrow, árísan, to arise, 266, 97, 1403.

áwiht, at all, 342.

áwrecan, to relate, 632. bed álan, to deprive, áwyrgian, to curse, 1518, 157, 255, 1560. BÁ, (v. begen). bæl, fire, 807. bærnan, to set on fire, burn up, 707, 968, 1620. bana, (v. bona). bánloca, bone-enclosure, 768. be, by, according to, at, 1288, 1392. béacen, a sign, 1064, béag, ring, crown, 291, 1125, 1442. beald, bold, 1075. bealofull, baleful, 258, 907. bealu, injury, bale, 181, 1104; bealo, 1246. bealu-dæd, evil-deed, 1300. bealu-ráp, balefulcord, 364. béam, a beam, tree, rood, 677, 728, 1088,

1092, 1168, 1173, 1445. bearhtm, clamour, cry, 949, 1143. bearn, child, son, (Christ), 37, 65, 75, 84, 125, 146, 163, 204, 241, 340, 411, 464, 571, 723.

beclýsan, to shut in, 322.

1299, 1633.

beréafian, to bereave, plunder, 167, 557.

befón, to receive, 79. begen, both, 356. behéofian, to bewail, 826. behindan, behind, 154. behýdan, to hide, 843.

562, (v. bidælan).

bemídan, to conceal, 1047. bemurnan, to bemoan,

175.

bend, bond, chain, 67, 146, 1040.

benn, a wound, 770. béodan, to announce, 482, 1339.

béofian, to tremble, 880, 1013, 1019, 1143, 1228.

beorg, mount, hill, 874, 898, 966, 976, 1006.

beorgan, to defend, 770.

beorht, bright, radiant, 204, 291, 411, 482, 509, 518, 741, 826, 876, 895, 1019, 1629, 1656.

beorhte, brightly, 700, 551, 902, 1466.

beorn, chief, 448, 529, 990. beornan (byrnan), to

be on fire, 537, 807, 987, 1250. beran, to bear, 1071,

berstan, to resound, to burst. 810, 931, 1140.

bescyrian, to deprive,

bestéman, to bedew, make wet, 1084. betlic, excellent, 65.

bebeccan, to cover, 115, (v. bipeccan).

bewindan, to wind round, to wreathe, 28, 724, 1420, 1422, 1641.

bewriban, to bind round, 309, 717.

bibéodan, to bid, 542, 1498.

bibod, command, 1157, 1392, 1523, 1629.

bibyrgan, to bury, 1157.

bicuman, to become, happen, 1104, 1112. bidælan, to deprive of, 1406, sever, 1431.

bídan, to await, endure, 146, 509, 703, 801, 1019.

biddan, to ask, pray, 112, 261, 336, 358, 773, 1351, 1506.

bid-fæst, stationary, firm, 1596.

bidyrnan, to conceal, 1087.

bifealdan, to inwrap, enfold, 116.

bifeolan, to commit, 667.

bifón, to grasp, sur-

round, encircle, 526, 1156. bigán, to avow, 1306. bigangan, to practise, bigong, course, way, 234, 679. bigrafan, to bury, 1464. bihelian, to conceal, 44, 1309. bihlæman, to overwhelm, 868. bilúcan, to lock up, 251, 333, 805, 1258, bindan, to bind, 307, 364, 872, 1596, 1620. binn, manger, 723. biréofan, to bereave, deprive, 1524. birinnan, to bedew, 1174. bisceran, to cut off, 1518. bisencan, to submerge, 1167. biséon, to percolate, 1086. bismítan, to defile, 1482. bisorgian, to care, 1554. biswedian, to wind round, bind, inwrap, 1642. biteldan, to overwhelm, 537. biter, bitter, 151, 764, 768, 907, 1250, 1436, 1473. bipeccan, to cover, 1421. bipencan, to remembóc, book, 452, 700, ber, 820, 848.

bipryccan, to press boda, a messenger, on, 1444. 1150, 1303. biwerian, to defend, bold, house, 741. protect, 1642. bona, slayer, destroyer, biwitian, to observe, devil, 263, 1392. bonnan, to summon, 352. biwrecan, to surround, call together, 1065. bord - gelác, missile, blác, pale, livid, 807, 768. 895. bót, remedy, redempblæd, glory, 687, 709, tion, 151, 364. 876, 1210, 1238, brád, *broad*, 356, 379, 1255, 1290, 1345, 990, 1143. 1585, 1634, 1656. brægd-boga, a drawn fruitful blæd-wéla, bow, 764. riches, 1390. brecan, to break, 707, blæst, blast, 974. 949, 990, 1144, 1392, blát, ghastly, 770. 1628. bláwan, to blow, 879, brego, prince, 402, 949. 455. bléd, flower, fruit, brehtm, sound, 880. 1168. bréman, to celebrate, bléo, colour, hue, 1563, to announce, 386, 1390. 482. blican, to shine, 506, bréost, breast, 340, 521, 700, 902, 1011, 1071. 1237. bréost-gehygd, breastblind, blind, 1125. thoughts, 261. bliss, bliss, joy, 551, bréost-sefa, thoughts 1255, 1345, 1645, of the breast, 539. 1648, 1656. bréotan, to break, 484. blissian, to gladden, bringan, to bring, 119. 1161, 1285. bróga, terror, 792. blipe, blithe, 279, 518, brond, fire, 810. 738, 773, 876. bróðor, brother, 1498. blód, blood, 258, 1084, brúcan, to enjoy, 391, IIII. 1324, 1360, 1645, blód-gýte, bloodshed, 1662. 707. bryne, burning, 1057, blódig, bloody, 1173. 1596, 1660.

784, 792, 1629.

bryne-tear, hot tear,

bryten-grund, spacious earth, 356. bryten-wong, spacious plain, the world, 379. brytta, Lord, 280, 333, bryttan, to dispense, burg, city, 65, 460, 518, 529, 533, 541, 552, 568, 1238. burg-lond, citadel, 50. burg-sittende, city citizens, dwellers, 336. citadel, burg-stede, 810. burg-waru, citizens, burg-weall, city-wall, céol, ship, 850, 860. bútan, without, (conj.), 271, 691; (prep.), 270, 721. býme, a trumpet, 880, 1060. byrd, bride, 279, 291. byrd-scipe, child-bearing, 181. byrgen, tomb, 728, 1466. byrhtan, shine, to 1088. byrhtu, brightness, 1238. bysmerléas, spotless, stainless, 1324. CALD, cold, 850, 1628.

carcern, prison, 24,

734.

céapian, to bargain, 1094. cearful, troubled, sad, cearian, to be anxious, 176. cearig, sorrowful, 147, (v. cerg). cearu, care, 890, 996, 1015, 1129, 1284, 1661. ceaster, citadel, 577. ceaster-hlid, gate of the city, 313. cempa, a champion, 562. cennan, to bring forth, create, 80, 231, 297, 635. céosan, to choose, 23, cerg (=cearge), 834. cierran, to turn, 154. cild, child, 217. cild-geong, a young child, 1424. cinn, kind, race, 1618. circe, church, 698, 702. cirm, shout, uproar, 834, 996. cléne, clean, pure, 135, 186, 275, 297, 330, 443, 702, 1221, 1284. cláp, cloth, 724, 1422. cleopian, to exclaim, call, 176, 507. clomm, a bond, chain, 734, 1144, 1628. clústor, lock, 313.

ceafl, bill, jaw, 1250.

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